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The Monthly Journal of the OVERSEAS CLUB and the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas

Vol III No 31, AUGUST, 1918.

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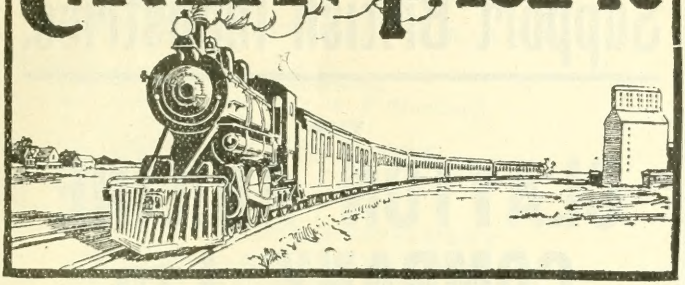

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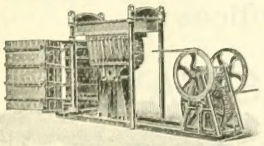

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OVERSEAS

A · LINK · OF · EMPIRE

Founded by

EVELYN · WRENCH

Under the Authority of the Central Committee of the Over-Seas Club & Patriotic League

Headquarters

GENERAL · BUILDINGS · ALDWYCH · LONDON

Vol. III. No. 31. August, 1918.

Fourth Anniversary of the War Number of "Overseas"

To commemorate our entry into the fifth year of War, we are issuing a Special Supplement, facing p. 48, specially dedicated to Great Britain's supreme effort during the past four years. No one, least of all "Overseas," would wish to minimise the splendid contributions of any section of the Empire to the common cause, but we feel that it is fitting on the fourth anniversary of the War that a special tribute should be paid to the Old Country. Our enemies have on many occasions tried to create misunderstanding among the Allies by minimising the British effort, but their attempts have not been successful. The part the British Isles have played in saving the world has been one of the great miracles of the War. May the work and suffering of the last four years bring their fruit in the dawn of a lasting peace before another August is reached!—Editor.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, K.T., G.C.B.,

Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Forces in France and Flanders.

Sir Douglas Haig.

AT the close of the fourth year of a War which has brought men from the farthest corners of the world to fight side by side in France and Flanders, the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League should have many adherents. May I express the hope that long after the great struggle upon which we are still engaged has ended in the victory of our cause, the membership of the Over-Seas Club will be maintained and increased as a strong and lasting link in the Chain of Empire?

D. HAIG.

OVERSEAS

Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden.

Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden, G.C.M.G.,

Prime Minister of Canada.

FOR the third time it has been my privilege during the War to visit the United Kingdom and the British Armies in France, and on each occasion I have had exceptional opportunities for observing the war effort of the people of these Islands. The magnitude of this effort, the fortitude and devotion with which it has been sustained, the immense sacrifices which it has entailed, cannot really be told in words. Beyond question, in the naval, industrial and financial spheres the British people have been the mainstay of the Alliance ; and in addition they have, though a non-military nation, raised armies numbering millions. The nation has indeed fulfilled nobly its historic *rôle* as defender of civilisation.

ROBERT BORDEN.

Hon. J. A. Calder.

Hon. J. A. Calder, M.P.,

Minister of Railways for Canada.

A FEW weeks' sojourn in Great Britain and a short trip to the Line has convinced me as nothing else could of the tremendous effort put forth by the people of the United Kingdom to bear their full share and more of the burden of the world's greatest struggle for human liberty. Evidence abounds everywhere of the extent and magnitude of the war efforts of the United Kingdom. Men, money, ships, munitions,—in fact, the entire resources of the nation have been made available to the fullest possible extent to assist in defeating the Hun. The women, the old men, the boys, the girls are all nobly playing their part. Sorrow has crept into countless thousands of homes and yet the people hold their heads on high. There is no indication anywhere in the British Isles of any desire or intention to quit. As one mingles amongst the people there are evidences on every hand of a grim determination to carry on. This is the spirit that dominates - a spirit that eventually, with wise leadership in the field and at home, will lead to a triumphant peace.

J. A. CALDER.

OVERSEAS

Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes.

Rt. Hon. W. M. Hughes,

Prime Minister of Australia.

ON the fourth anniversary of the great World's War, I desire on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia to express to the people of Britain our feelings of admiration and pride at the glorious valour, heroic endurance, and unfaltering purpose displayed, not only by soldiers and sailors of British forces on land and sea, but by the Nation generally. Britain in her hour of trial has comported herself in a manner worthy of her ancient traditions and the great cause for which she drew the sword. We are proud to be akin to her and to fight by her side.

W. M. HUGHES.

Rt. Hon. W. F. Massey.

Rt. Hon. W. F. Massey,

Prime Minister of New Zealand.

FOUR years of War have only strengthened the determination of British citizens to continue the struggle which, in defence of civilisation, they have been compelled to enter. It is in this spirit of resolve that New Zealand, in common with the rest of the Empire, enters upon the fifth year of the War prepared to face cheerfully whatever trials may be in store, but confident in the justice of the Cause that we have espoused and convinced that victory must come to those who are fighting in the cause of Righteousness and Humanity.

W. F. MASSEY.

Hon. H. Burton.

Hon. H. Burton, M.L.A.,

Minister of Railways and Harbours for South Africa.

AFTER four years of War, South Africa is more than ever convinced of the justice of the Allied Cause. When this great attack on the rights and liberties of mankind has been defeated and the justice of right over might has been vindicated for all time, South Africa will consider that her sacrifices on the battlefields of Western Europe, Egypt, South West Africa and German East Africa will not have been in vain.

H. BURTON.

Hon. N. W. Rowell.

Hon. N. W. Rowell,

President of the Privy Council for Canada.

CANADA enters upon the fifth year of the War as resolute and determined as ever to fight on until victory is achieved.

We appreciate to the full the courage and devotion of the people of the British Isles and the unparalleled sacrifices they have made in a great and noble cause. Victory for Germany would mean the death-knell of our hopes and ambitions as free Democracies and would jeopardise the future welfare of our humanity ; such a result we cannot and will not accept.

His Majesty's Fleet has driven the German battleships and Mercantile Marine from the high seas and is keeping the ocean clear for Allied traffic. In the air the Allies are supreme. We look forward with confidence to the day when, with the assistance of the soldiers of the United States, the Allies will march through victory to a just and lasting peace.

Our message is " Stand fast ; we will stand with you."

N. W. ROWELL.

Mr. Arnold Bennett.

Mr. Arnold Bennett.

I THINK that one of the lasting results of the war will be an increased intimacy and a much better mutual comprehension between the self-governing nations of the British Commonwealth. The friendships formed on the battlefields of Europe, Asia, and Africa are bound to have consequences both happy and useful. Often in the past there was a tendency in certain quarters to regard Britain as a back number. I think that the war has just about killed that tendency.

The young manhood of the nations constituting Greater Britain has learnt at first hand that Britain still exists, and very powerfully. It realises the stupendous part played by Britain, and, above all, it now appreciates pretty well what British supremacy on the seas means to the Allies as a whole.

ARNOLD BENNETT.

Cardinal Bourne,

Archbishop of Westminster.

Cardinal Bourne.

THERE were few indeed who, on August 4th, 1914, foresaw that on the same day in 1918 the issue of the War would still remain undecided. Hope, nay confidence, has never flagged ; but in the last twelve months there have been moments as black as any even in the dark days of the first weeks of the conflict. None are likely to forget the shadows that hung so heavily on the Holy Week and Eastertide of the present year, shadows gradually, but surely, being scattered by the unexpectedly rapid coming of the mighty host of our kinsfolk whose home is across the Atlantic seas.

We enter on the fifth year of battle more confident than ever in the final victory of the sacred cause which has already entailed so many sacrifices ; not more certain—for there has been no place for greater certainty—of the righteousness and justice and compelling necessity of the war of defence for which our enemies have obliged the peace-loving nations of the Empire to take up arms.

The Catholics of the Empire have from the beginning daily prayed for God's blessing upon the defenders of the rights which have been assailed, and for the speedy coming of a just and lasting peace. May the fifth year of this gigantic struggle bring with it complete and decisive answer to our long-repeated supplications.

FRANCIS CARDINAL BOURNE.

Hon. A. Meighen, M.P.,

Minister of the Interior for the Dominion of Canada.

Hon. A. Meighen.

BEFORE leaving these Islands I welcome the opportunity of expressing in this column Canada's war-inspired sentiment toward Great Britain. Our Dominion is proud of her origin, as never before, faithful in her allegiance, affectionate in her admiration of the mother of her own liberties and the defender of the world's. After four years of war it is for the old land to learn all its lessons eagerly and in time, to rig every deck for action, to summon anew the infinite courage and resource of her people, and, doing so, to count on Canada to the end.

ALLEN MEIGHEN.

THE OVER-SEAS CLUB AND PATRIOTIC LEAGUE.

(Patron : His Majesty The King.)

THE Over - Seas Club and Patriotic League is a non-party society of British subjects residing in all parts of the world. Its underlying motive is to promote the unity of British subjects. Its four chief objects are :

1. To help one another.
2. To render individual service to our Empire.
3. To maintain our Empire's supremacy upon the seas and in the air.
4. To draw together in the bond of comradeship British people the world over.

MEMBERS' CREED

BELIEVING the British Empire to stand for justice, freedom, order and good government, we pledge ourselves, as citizens of the greatest Empire in the world, to maintain the heritage handed down to us by our fathers.

We sailed wherever ship could sail,
We founded many a mighty State,
Pray God our greatness may not fail
Through craven fears of being great.

—TENNYSON.

Date of Inception	August 27th, 1910
Membership (including Associates)	156,584
Subscribing Membership	19,570
Life Members	1,886

FUNDS RAISED.

Overseas Tobacco Fund	£318,254
Overseas Aircraft Fund	£271,719
Overseas Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund	£39,690
Overseas Red Cross Fund	£67,235
Overseas Belgian Soldiers' Fund	£44,129
Overseas Hamper Fund	£17,875
Overseas Royal Air Force Hospital Fund ...	£26,929
Overseas War Memorial	£2,340
Babies of the Empire	£740
Grand Total	£788,911
Amount collected last month	£15,376

MEMBERSHIP FEE (Residents Overseas).

First Year's Subscription, including Membership List and subscription to "Overseas," the Over-Seas Club Magazine	£0 10 0
Annual Subscription (subsequent years)	0 7 6
Life Membership Fee, including Entrance Fee and Life Subscription to Magazine and Membership List	5 5 0

The rate of subscription of Members living in the United Kingdom is higher. Particulars and forms of membership can be obtained on application to the Headquarters of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League.

Members' subscriptions become due on January 1st each year. Subscriptions received after October 1st are carried forward to the following year.

Contributions or subscriptions should be addressed to The Hon. Organiser, Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League, General Buildings, Aldwych, London W.C. 2.

[*Messrs. A. & C. Black, Ltd.*

THE DEANERY, WINCHESTER.

The Deanery is one of the few remaining links with the Conventual Buildings of St. Swithin's Priory, and was formerly the quarters of the Prior. St. Swithin was made Bishop of Winchester in 852. It was here that Philip of Spain lodged when he came to Winchester to marry Queen Mary in 1554.

Our Monthly Letter

By F. A. McKenzie

Our Monthly Letter.

IT is four years this month since the great War began. It is hard to-day to recall the world as it was in the summer weeks of 1914. London had grown into the great pleasure city of the world. Visitors thronged here from every land. Pageants and athletic sports abounded, and stars of Russian opera and leading players of every kind found their supreme public here. The tide of luxury mounted ever higher. Living was cheap, business was abundant, and money was plentiful. The great hotels of our great cities were a welter of ostentatious splendour. The luxury of travelling, trains *de luxe* when crossing continents, and the 40,000-ton steamers conducted like floating hotels *de luxe* robbed journeys of their fatigue.

The world can never be the same again. Few of us, looking back over the years that have passed, would, I think, desire the world to be the same again. We had taken our ease too long. In these sterner days, when simplicity has replaced luxury and hard work ousted idleness, we are learning that real happiness comes not from abundance but from accomplishment. The England of to-day, fighting for her life against strong foes, sacrificing freely the best of her manhood and calling her daughters from days of ease to days of labour and sacrifice, is a greater England than ever before.

OUR TESTING TIME.—War is horrible, but it is not all horrible. It brings its train of waste, broken hearts, maimed bodies, and wrecked souls. It turns the flourishing places of the world to desolation and makes a fertile land a wilderness. But it does something more. It calls out among a people fighting for a righteous cause all the great qualities. It tries souls, burning out the dross and leaving no room for selfishness. It makes men.

For us the great outstanding fact of the War is that in our days of trial Great Britain has proved worthy of herself. The whole Empire has shown in these appalling four years that the spirit of the English-speaking peoples is as great to-day as ever it was. Mothers have sent their only sons to death with a smile. Fathers whose homes and souls are left desolate in their old age keep up a brave front and walk clear-eyed among us. We have hidden our sacrifice. Daughters, sisters, and mothers have turned to work. The very boys are organising themselves. The pick of our young manhood has gone. And to-day we say as one people that, if necessary, the old will follow the young. For it is better for us to die fighting and pass from history than to live as the slaves of the most dreadful

Our Monthly Letter.

tyranny that the world has ever imagined. Happily our race will not die, for the signs now grow daily that Germany's great bid for world dominion has failed.

THEN AND NOW.—Four years ago we had a small and ill-equipped Army numbered by the hundred thousand, with few machine-guns and inadequate artillery, strong only in the skill, knowledge and courage of its men. To-day we have an Army of five millions, equipped as never army was before in the world. Four years ago Germany was confident that she could win the lordship of the sea from us. Submarines and mines were to destroy our great Navy. To-day our Navy still stands as it did then, supreme, still mistress of the seas. Four years ago our provision of aeroplanes was the scoff of every expert. To-day the British airmen are the greatest fighting flyers of the world, and the Royal Air Force, with its planes numbered by the ten thousand, has won such prestige that, at the sight of two of our planes, half a dozen of the enemy airmen will take flight.

We have marshalled our industry. The makers of world luxuries yesterday are the manufacturers of munitions of war to-day. Our manufacture of war material has reached a magnitude that then would have seemed beyond belief.

The British people have quietly, without complaining and without boasting, sunk all other interests for the better prosecution of the War. They have revolutionised their home lives. They have revolutionised their habits, and they have even changed the hours of the clock. They have limited their supply of fuel for warming their houses ; they have placed their food under rations. Women have rivalled men in their sacrifices for the Imperial cause. The work of the British Armies in the field has been unspeakably great, but alongside of it we can look with pride and satisfaction on the sacrifice of the wives and children in their homes.

A NEW WARFARE.—London, that for untold centuries had never heard the sound of enemy shot, has been repeatedly bombarded from the sky. At first—like the giant looking disdainfully at the weakling hitting him—it refused to recognise the significance of these attacks. When it did, it organised its defences in such a way that it is to-day ringed round with protection, as those who now dare to flout it find to their cost. We have to fight an enemy who respects no convention and ignores the most elementary claims of humanity. We have endured a series of unspeakable outrages, from the sinking of the *Lusitania* to the recent bombing of hospitals in France. The crimes of Germany against us have been unceasing. When, at the beginning of the War, we learned the German orgy of outrage in Belgium, many people refused to credit it. "No nation," they said, "could be so base. War is

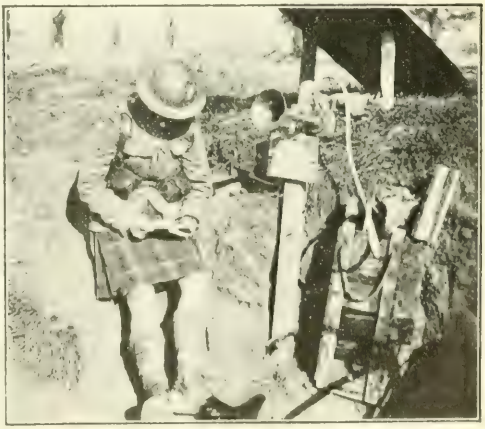
not murder." But we have learned by suffering what an unscrupulous enemy can do.

Poison gas lends a fresh horror to war, a horror subsequently even exceeded by the German introduction of flame-throwers. Despite every attempt to conceal the facts, the stories of the suffering of our prisoners in German hands became known, the stories that did more to seal our resolution than anything else. At the beginning of the War the British Navy was willing to regard the enemy as a chivalrous foe. The constant sinkings of undefended passenger ships and hospital ships, the wholesale murder of defenceless women and children on the high seas, the repeated bombing of hospitals, have turned this feeling to hatred and contempt.

Germany set out to conquer the world. Of that we have to-day ample proof. Great Britain never desired this War. She went into it unwillingly. Germany has already had a dreadful awakening from her ambitious dream of conquest. She finds herself instead fighting desperately to save herself from the destruction she invited. She has made her name reek in the nostrils of all honest men.

OUR SUPREME GAIN.—To us the supreme gain of the War has been the fresh re-union of the English-speaking peoples. The dark days of August, 1914, brought forward such proofs of the love of all parts of the Commonwealth for the Motherland as even the optimists scarcely dared to expect. Canada, Australasia, India, South Africa, islands of the Pacific and settlements in the Arctic Zone, sprang to arms at the first call of war. Still greater proof of our oneness came in April, 1917, when the American people took their place by our side. Only now are we beginning to realise something of the full meaning of the American alliance. When the flag of an American Admiral floated in command from an Irish naval base, when the Stars and Stripes flew over Buckingham Palace and cheering crowds carried the Union Jack through the streets of New York, we had outward examples of a world reconstruction more immense and more beneficent than humanity has seen since the beginning of the Christian era.

We enter on the fifth year of the War not in despair but full of high courage. We have every reason for confidence and for final as-



A Letter from "Blighty." A happy Jock immersed in home news.

Our Monthly Letter.

surance of victory. There may be dark days ahead. The great preparations of Germany may give her some further victories, but here is a war that is not decided by one battle, however great. After our reverses of March and April we re-formed, filled our depleted ranks with fresh men and manufactured fresh guns and material for those that we had lost. We can do so again and again and again if needs be. Come victory or disaster, we are going on with this War. And as I write comes news of great and still greater victory.

THE END IN VIEW.—The British Empire is resolved upon one thing. The American people, so far as I can gather from them, are determined on it even more strongly than ourselves. We are resolved not to lay down the sword until our purpose is accomplished. We are not going to allow loss, suffering and grief to turn us from our course. We have fixed our end and that end we are going to reach even though it takes us a generation to get there.

What is that end ? We ask for the establishment and recognition of methods of government throughout the world that will ensure to all nations, great and small, freedom from oppression, the right to justice, and the safety of their womenkind. We have no wish to enslave the German peoples, but we are determined that Germany, having started this War, shall not be allowed to end it until her Armies are defeated, and that German militarism shall receive so crushing a repulse that it will be for all time discredited. Germany has committed the crowning crime of all the ages, and for that crime she must make adequate reparation. We are going to establish security and to prove afresh that law and justice rule.

Two things promise well for us in the year ahead. The first of these is the growing economic exhaustion of the German peoples. The next is the growing strength on our side of the American forces. By the spring of 1919 two million American soldiers and at least ten thousand American fighting planes may well be available on the Western front. These men come fresh when the rest of the world is wearied. They are splendid fighters, as they have already proved. Their hearts are aflame with wrath and pity, and they are entering into this War in the spirit of the old Crusaders. The coming of America has transformed the situation.

F. A. McKENZIE.

Our aim is a reader in every home throughout the Empire.

The Old Country in War-time

A Meeting Place of Nations

By L. F. Stockwell, an O.-S. Member

THE number of workers of all nationalities to be found at present on our shores is a striking proof of the many friends to the Allied cause. Even in country places where strangers from another county were once a rarity, the rustics have learned to fraternise with people from the utmost ends of the earth. In one district in Southern England alone there are to be found, not only representatives of all our Overseas Dominions, but of other nations as well.

The Old Country in War-time.

The war was not many weeks old before an Indian mountain battery was encamped on the wide open heaths, and the English village became an Indian cantonment, with white tents stretching as far as the eye could see, rows of picketed horses, and little fires whose smoke hung low in the heavy autumn air, at which the chupatties were being cooked. Picturesque men of warlike aspect from the Punjaub, from Baluchistan, and the North-West Frontier strode up and down the street or passed in procession through the village with machine guns mounted on the well-trained mules that had come as far as their masters. Then came the call to the Front, and they disappeared from our midst as suddenly as they had come.

Presently some of them drifted back as casualties to an adjacent village, where a hospital centre for Indians was established. The names of some of the Indians who died in hospital here are inscribed beside those of the village lads on the war shrine, and their bodies lie in consecrated ground in the soldiers' corner of the cemetery. Here is a tombstone, subscribed for by the parishioners, to an Indian servant of the humblest class, who came far from home and friends at the call of King and Empire, and who, though not by profession a Christian, spent his life in the service of others. Strict Hindus were given a burning-ground where the last rites might be performed in accordance with their caste, and sometimes the Hampshire lanes re-

Stacking Hay in Sussex. Sent by Miss M. Mourant, Meriden, Cranleigh, Surrey.

The Old Country in War-time.

sounded with the cry of "Ram Bolo! Ram Bolo!" as the shrouded figure on the stretcher was borne to the burning ghat.

Now the Indians have gone, and in their place are wounded Anzacs, whose bright hospital blue makes a picturesque note of colour among the brown of the woodlands. Splendid specimens of manhood they are, with fine well-knit figures, faces bronzed by a kindlier sun, and keen eyes that have looked on wider horizons than ours. The majority are of British blood, but there are also Maoris, Fijians, and Samoans, who have left their far homes to fight for the Allied cause. Even as we stand looking at the white crosses in the cemetery another soldier's funeral comes up, the coffin covered by the Union Jack and a couple of wreaths. The firing party, like their fallen comrade, are Maoris, fine soldierly figures, with strong serious faces, who stand with heads reverently bowed through the grand simple service. The three salutes are fired, arms presented; then the haunting music of the "Last Post" rings out, the sad far-away final note transporting our thoughts to the dead man's sunny home-land beyond.

Nor is the Great Dominion unrepresented in the district, for, strolling through the Forest, we may come upon a Canadian lumber camp, with great stacks of timber piled on either side, and picturesque brown shacks where the lumber-men dwell, who have come straight from the lumber camps of the North-West. They include a sprinkling of Indians and half-breeds as well as British colonists. Farther on we may perchance come upon a colony of Portuguese, who keep to themselves and preserve many of the customs of their own sunny land, washing their clothes in the stream, and, when they go to the villages, carrying large white cotton umbrellas and strolling down the street playing accordions. These short, thick-set, bullet-headed men, with pale olive complexion and straight black hair, give an impression of great strength, and are said to be the finest lumber-men in the world.

Parties of American soldiers and sailors, Frenchmen and Belgians in their powder-blue uniform, may also be met exploring the country-side, while, if we penetrate farther into the Forest, we may come upon a gang of blue-garbed Chinese labourers mending His Majesty's highway. Such are the curious contrasts to be met with to-day in war-time England.

A View of the River Greta, in the English Lake District. Sent by Miss A. Ewart, 4, Carlton Terrace Edinburgh. (See Mail Bag, p. 67.)

War Stamps

A Few Notes on the Postal Issues resultant from the present War

By Norman Thornton

War Stamps.

OF the ever-mounting number of postal issues occasioned directly and indirectly by the War, those having the chief interest for readers of "Overseas" are undoubtedly the issues which have been made within the Empire. These divide themselves naturally into two groups; first, the issues made for use in occupied territory or by particular Expeditionary Forces—and secondly, issues made for the purpose of extra taxation.

To the first group, which in most cases were also the first in point of time, belong the German colonial issues for their Pacific possessions—New Guinea, Marshall Islands, and Samoa; for the West African colonies of Cameroon and Togo; and, later, the special issues made in the Turkish Empire and Levant, together with the stamps provided for the Indian and German East African Expeditionary Forces.

The first issue was actually made on September 3rd, 1914, in Samoa, which was occupied by the New Zealand Forces on August 29th. The issue consisted of the eleven values of the German colonial issue overprinted with the letters "G.R.I." and the new value in British currency—the printing was done at the office of the *Samoanische Zeitung* at Apia, and numerous errors, such as double and inverted surcharges and mistakes in type-setting, have been chronicled. The largest number of any one stamp was 19,700 of the 2½d. on twenty pfennigs, and the smallest thirty-five of the one shilling on one mark; but of this denomination there were also 100 copies which by error showed the new denomination as "1 shillings." This issue was superseded on September 29th by a series of stamps of New Zealand overprinted "Samoa."

Lome, the capital of Togoland, was captured on August 7th, and on August 26th the colony surrendered to the Franco-British forces. The first provisional stamps were issued on October 1st, a supply having formed at Kamina, 100 miles from Lome. They had been hidden by the Germans, but, on their being found, they were divided between the British and French administrations. Our share was overprinted at the Catholic Mission at Lome, and that of our Allies at Porto Novo in Dahomey. The overprints were similar in form, "Togo—Anglo-French—Occupation" and "Togo—Occupation—Franco-Anglaise," each in three lines fol-

War Stamps.

lowed by the new value in words in the case of the later printings (there were three) of the British issue, and in figures in the case of the French issue.

The Marshall Islands, as also the Marianne and Caroline groups, were occupied by the Japanese on October 7th, only the island of Nauru being taken possession of by the Australian Expedition and administered by them from Rabaul, German New Guinea, occupied September 25th. The stamps of both Marshall Islands and New Guinea were overprinted "G.R.I." with the new values and used indiscriminately. In this group double surcharges are found and type errors, including inverted letters. The issues were comparatively small, and the widespread interest of collectors has sent them to high prices. These gave place on March 15th, 1915, to an issue of the stamps of Australia overprinted "N.W.—Pacific Islands" in three lines. These have also proved interesting to collectors on account of the variety of settings of the overprint and of the change in the watermark in the stamps, and prices are rising in spite of fairly large numbers of some values thus overprinted.

Mention must here be made of the special issue of English stamps overprinted for the island of Nauru, which belongs to this group. The stamps were sent out from England with the overprint already made in London—at first supplies were very restricted, but later on London dealers received a good proportion of their orders for these stamps.

The issue of the overprinted stamps of the German colony of Cameroon was authorised by an Army Routine Order of Brigadier-General C. M. Dobell, C.M.G., D.S.O. A large consignment of all values was found on board the German s.s. *Professor Woermann* at Freetown, Sierra Leone, where she was seized at the outbreak of hostilities, and all these were overprinted "C.E.F.," with the new value, the letters standing for "Cameroons Expeditionary Force." Double and inverted surcharges and some type varieties are to be found, and these have fetched high prices—the rarity being 3s. on three marks double surcharge, which has been priced by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons at £35 ! These exhaust the German overprinted issues, for the few German South-West Africans which reached this country turned out to be frauds from a private source, no issue having been made here ; the stamps of the Union of South Africa are in use.

August 15th, 1915, saw an issue of Persian stamps overprinted "Bushire—Under British—Occupation." These were used by the British forces in the Persian Gulf. The printing was done on a small press taken from the British Residency to the Persian Post Office and the type was very defective. The issue was very limited, ranging from eighteen copies only of one type of the two

chahi value to 4,050 of the six chahi bearing the Shah's head. As the postal rate from the British post office was 1d. per oz. against 2½d. at the Persian office, many natives availed themselves of the former, and the bulk of the stamps that were actually used went to the interior of Persia or Asia Minor. They will be amongst the treasured rarities of a few fortunate collectors.

Following the further progress of the Mesopotamian Expedition, we come to the issue made in Baghdad on September 2nd of last year. Various Turkish stamps were seized and overprinted with denominations in Indian currency in a type similar to that here shown :—

It is reported that £500 worth face value were so treated, and as 2a. = 2d. is the highest denomination, the stamps should be fairly plentiful once they reach the market, but, at the moment of writing the inquiry for them is in advance of their arrival in considerable numbers ; this may be accounted for if, as is said, it is true, that a limit of 8 annas was placed on the purchases of any one person. One wonders if stamp cards were issued to the troops to obviate post office queues !

A very interesting issue, and one that has aroused considerable controversy, was made on Long Island in the Gulf of Smyrna. The island was occupied in May, 1916, by British Naval Forces, and Lieut.-Commander H. Pirie-Gordon, R.N.V.R., was placed in control as Civil Administrator. Post offices were opened at Nikola and North End on May 7th. A few Turkish fiscal stamps were seized and converted into postage stamps of ½d., 1d., and 2½d. by the application of a type-written surcharge "G.R.I.—Postage —½—Penny," etc., in four lines—there were only sixty-five stamps all told, and a further supply was made by typewriter on various thin coloured papers. A letter from the Civil Administrator, dated June 10th, stated : "The Turks have become so very offensive that the issue of Long Island stamps has had to be discontinued," a polite way of saying, "We have evacuated Long Island." The issue ceased on May 26th. The bombshell fell when the Postmaster-General denied the authority of the issue ! There can, however, be no doubt at all that the issue was authoritatively made and authorised by the competent local authorities. The issue was heralded by a notice in the *Long Island Gazette* (published by authority) on May 6th, and I have seen letters on which the postage was paid by these stamps. The

War Stamps. necessity for their issue might be called in question, but not the authority under which they appeared.

C.R.I.
LONG ISLAND
Postage &
Revenue
ONE PENNY

Of the issues made for taxation purposes the majority hail from the West Indian colonies and consist mostly of ½d., 1d., and 3d. values, with the words "WAR STAMP" or "WAR TAX" in varying types. Those from Jamaica have aroused the most interest on account of the multitude of minor errors that occur, but these are of rather a technical interest and appeal more to specialising collectors than to the general public. It is to be hoped that in the near future the provisional issues I have dealt with may be consolidated by permanent issues for new Dominions overseas.

NORMAN THORNTON.

Mr. John L. Hudson, El Cayo, British Honduras, standing outside his Camp in one of the Pine Forests of his Locality.

The Great Possibilities of British Honduras

By R. W. A. Salter

The Great Possibilities of British Honduras.

IN these pressing times so small an outpost of the Empire as British Honduras is apt to be overlooked. A glance at a map of the Americas will reveal its position, on the Atlantic slope of Central America, washed by the Caribbean Sea on the east, separated from Mexico by the Rio Hondo and bounded elsewhere by Guatemala. For many years this colony's climate has been maligned and a reputation formed which has done much to curb expansion. Notwithstanding that the climate is hot, moist and unhealthy for Europeans, epidemics are few. By application of sensible precautions (*vide* paper "On Keeping Well in the Tropics," by Sir James Cantlie, March issue) the resources could be developed to great advantage. At present the colony suffers from lack of capital and cheap labour.

Honduras was discovered by Columbus in 1502 and inhabited by shipwrecked British subjects little more than a century later. In 1662 logwood cutters began to establish themselves at Cape Catouche. Then, eight years later, Spain ceded the country in perpetuity to Great Britain, and the population has since increased gradually.

The whole of the coast, stretching some 160 miles almost due north and south, is low and swampy and fenced from the open sea by innumerable coral islands, or cays. The cays are thickly covered with mangrove trees, some being under partial cultivation. They render navigation of ships into the harbour at Belize difficult. Away from the coast the contour of the country presents distincter features. Hills, rising later into mountains, are clothed with a rich mantle of virgin forests and tropical undergrowth. These forests are literally filled with mahogany and other precious hardwoods.

The principal town —the seat of the Governor and legislative council — is Belize, on the Bay of Honduras. Most of the houses are of wood and built on

Loading Bananas into the Train on Stann Creek Railway.
This photograph is supplied by Mr. W. E. Allison, Supt. of Railways.

The Great Possibilities of British Honduras.

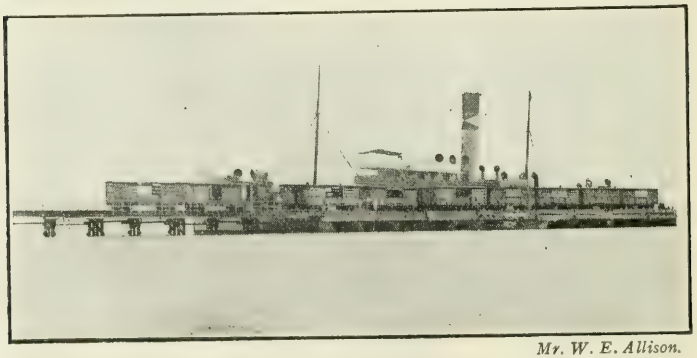
piles. About 6,000 persons, mostly blacks, live there. Belize is served by waterways, the principal means of internal communication of the colony.

A railway—the only one in British Honduras—runs from Commerce Bight Pier, Stann Creek, twenty-five miles into the interior. Two years after the completion of this enterprise much of the property was destroyed or damaged by floods ; two bridges spanning the Stann Creek River being washed completely away.

Logwood, sugar and bananas form the principal articles of export, and almost the entire revenue of the Stann Creek Railway, which is owned by the Crown, is derived from the transport of bananas. The line runs through many miles of plantations, the larger of which are equipped with mule-drawn trolleys for conveying the fruit to the main line, where it is stored pending the arrival of a train. Usually the fruit is cut the day before collection. Two well-known American firms, whose steamers to New Orleans and Mobile respectively call at Commerce Bight Pier on alternate weeks on their return voyages from Guatemala, are the chief purchasers. Directly a steamer is signalled the fruit is run on to the pier. It is stowed on board by hand.

The photograph on p. 37 illustrates a typical scene in loading bananas into a train. The trucks carry about 300 bunches. The carriage of bunches having not less than eight hands of fruit is 2½d., while smaller bunches cost 1½d., irrespective of the distance. In 1914 the railway carried over half a million bunches out of a total exported from the whole colony of 673,443. Much of the land on either side of the tracks is planted with the fruit.

The banana-grower in Central America lives in constant dread of a not infrequent natural occurrence—the windstorm, which may wreck in very few moments the product of a whole plantation.



Mr. W. E. Allison.

Steamer Loading Bananas at Commerce Bight Pier, Stann Creek, British Honduras.

The Angel of Death

The Angel of Death.

DEATH ! Away there in the future this Something awaits us, tremendous, unknown, very dark. We shut it out from our thoughts, shut it out from the dear familiar daily life, refuse to admit the very truth of its sovereign claim upon us. Desperately we escape away from the shadows into the sunshine, and fill our hands with flowers. But at times in the history of nations and of individuals the magic fabric of that unreal world, wherein man has endeavoured to shelter himself is rent through and through by a lightning blaze of a world unknown,—and to that supreme challenge there is no turning a deaf ear.

Death has become an insistent fact to most of us during the last years ; we may shrink away from it in horror as from an enemy, or reverently kneel down as before the infinite Revelation ; but we cannot forget it or ignore. One by one those we love are slipping away from us and the unseen world is becoming peopled with dear and living presences.

There is always an element of fear in the *unknown ;* if Death is so terrible to many of us it is because we have never dared to look into his face ; all we have seen of him is the outward horror with which humanity has invested him, the last sad rites, the heavy stone rolled against an open grave. Of himself as he is we know nothing. With unfathomable eyes he stands on the threshold of our lives, but we bar the door fast and close and hide our face in our hands. Oh, would we but look !

There is no death. Death is the great illusion. The Valley of the Shadow leads not to darkness but to light. To have known what it is to accompany one, infinitely beloved, to the very gates, faltering heart and soul steeling themselves for the supreme encounter, only to find that the veiled presence which drew near was Life, Very Life and Very Love, is to realise that the whole universe is robbed for ever of its fear. Far harder is it for those many poor souls who are not standing by when their best are taken from them, who catch

Cactus Plant growing in British Honduras. Sent by Mr. H. N. Kirconnell, Roman Bar, Rep. Honduras.

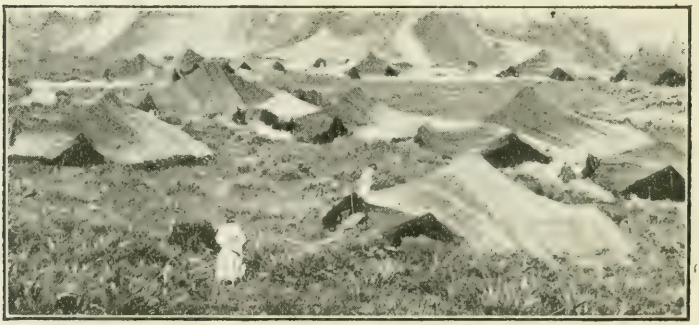
The Angel of Death.

no glimpse of the opening Heaven and the Glory beyond; to whom the news comes swift and sudden and terrible in the midst of the commonplace day, impossible to believe. To them I would say in all their desolation, "It is not death. There is no death. You only saw dim in the distance a shrouded form, could you but see the face." To have seen it, even for a moment is to know that life can never be the same again, it is to know that nothing in this world or out of it can dismay the soul. Eyes that have beheld that Vision can look into the open grave and in triumph say, "O Death where is thy sting, O Grave where is thy victory."

There is no possible comfort to be found in the poor expedient of turning away from the dread presence and seeking for forgetfulness, the whole comfort of Death lies in death itself, in gazing upon it till you pierce the gloomy veils of human making and look upon the blessed face. Life and Death,—we call them by different names, distorting by our poor words the hidden truth. We live in the world unseen and talk of it as a future place; its presences are all around us and we call ourselves alone; the radiance of Eternity makes golden the path whereon we tread and we darken our vision with our "Now" and "Hereafter."

There is no end, no banging door, no darkness, no great dread to face. When the last hour comes and the soul starts out on its great adventure it will know at last that what awaited it was no strange and awful mystery, but the very life it had known all along and thought it must leave,—that very life transfigured and wonderful, delivered from earth's tyrannies, secure in love unchanging, alight with the Glory of the Most High.

"Scio Domine et vere scio . . . quia non sum dignus accedere ad tantum mysterium propter nimia peccata mea et infinitas negligentias meas. Sed scio . . . quia tu potes me facere dignum."



Arab Encampment near Tlemcen, Prov. of Oran, N. Africa. Sent by Mr. R. Pollock Simpson, Aguilas, Murcia, Spain.

Why We Should Study the Map

By Sir T. H. Holdich, President of the Royal Geographical Society

Why We should Study the Map.

WITH the tightening of the strings which bind together the interests of Britain and the Overseas Dominions and Colonies into one Imperial whole there should surely arrive a better geographical knowledge, not only of the relative positions of the scattered units of land and intervening seas which make up the Empire, but of the conditions of life and character which are the result of local environment.

To an almost unexpected extent the War has opened the eyes of the public to the primal necessity for accurate information on affairs which, having been called foreign hitherto, have been adjudged as beyond the reasonable limits of study by the average Britisher. Before the War what did we know of Eastern Europe? Who cared in what shape the Balkan States fitted themselves together on the map like pieces in a jigsaw puzzle? Even Austria was reckoned too remote for any chance of practical interference with us.

Poles and Greeks, Albanians and Armenians were the chief victims who appealed more to our sympathies whenever simmering international antagonism boiled over into military activity, and there occurred one of those episodes which our statesmen regarded as an "Eastern Squabble." Such episodes concerned us but little. We know better now, we know that an eastern squabble may be the foundation for an organised attempt to gain Pan-German control, not of the Balkans and Asia Minor, but of all the great avenues of approach to Africa and to the East; and we must surely recognise that this new teaching of what vitally concerns us in the world-wide theatre of human activities, as well as in the current matters of local history as it unfolds itself from day to day with the swaying progress of the War, is due, primarily, to the enterprise of the Press.

There is no excuse now for ignorance of those geographical features which surround Great Britain and determine the course of her naval strategy; neither is there any for the framing of false estimates of the extent of conquered territory on either side. Excellent maps have been published, and a little practical knowledge of map-reading should by this time have filtered into the intelligence of the average reader such as he never acquired at school, and such as should keep him straight in his general appreciation of the plain geographical issues involved by the War. All this is a distinct gain, but, after all, it is the knowledge of Great

Why We should Study the Map.

Britain gained by America, by Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and other overseas communities which counts for most.

A good deal has been done through the agency of the Royal Geographical Society and other institutions to induce our educational authorities at the universities and some of the leading schools in Great Britain to recognise the importance of practical geographical teaching, and to make the subject more popular amongst teachers and to induce the examiner to appraise more fully the value of geography as a useful asset in the knowledge of the examinee.

To put it shortly, if sufficient marks are accorded to the subject of geography in public examinations, teachers and pupils alike will rapidly fall into line for the study of it. We are still lamentably deficient in some of the first elements of instruction. Whether this is equally the case in the overseas Dominions I am not in a position to say, but in England, at any rate, we have yet to learn how to catch the juvenile fancy so as to render the subject really attractive. The school maps that one sees on the walls are frequently atrocious. They are ugly and often difficult to decipher. Too much attention is given to the projection (about which the average child cares nothing), and too little to clear definition of the more picturesque accessories of the map, such as the mountains and rivers, the lakes and the railways. It is an open question whether the time-honoured system of the part which represented the country from a "bird's eye" view was not often all the most educative for the beginner.

It is in the subject of commercial geography that we are so sadly outclassed by those foreign countries who are less conservative in their ideas, and who consequently shoulder us out of our own commercial fields continually. We cannot hope to compete with those who make a deep study of lines of communication, railway roads, and ocean ways, of the wants of the inhabitants of a freshly-opened country, which wants are dictated by climate and environment; who study carefully what purchasers want to buy rather than what they themselves want to sell, and who, above all things, are careful that what they sell even amongst savages is good of its sort.

There was once an enterprising Dutch firm who, having ascertained that the fashionable attire amongst ladies in a certain West African district was principally confined to beads, shipped off a large consignment from Birmingham of the right class in colour and size, and were hopeful that they would secure the market. The dusky ladies admired the beads, applied the local test of quality by biting them with their strong white teeth, and, having bitten them to pieces, pointed out that they were accustomed to a harder variety which they got from Venice. Imitation goods did not appeal to them!

OUR EIGHTH BIRTHDAY.—On the 27th of this month the Over-Seas Club will be eight years old. By a happy coincidence the first steps towards the formation of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas were also taken in August four years later, although it was not until October, 1914, that the League was formally constituted. The birthday of the Joint Society is, as our readers are all aware, on March 31st.

When we review the past, there is one thing with which we can be satisfied—the fact that our membership has never yet looked back. From the modest beginnings in 1910 until to-day, our progress, though slow at times, has always been persistently upwards, and, on the snowball principle, each year we may expect more satisfactory results.

The War has made Empire Service, at one time the vision of the few, the practical aim of the many. "Empire" in its old sense is now an obsolete word as applied to the British Commonwealth of nations. Of necessity, a Commonwealth such as we pride ourselves on being brings its obligations to the individual. We know that, as a race, we have a mission to fulfil, but the difficulty for the individual lies in finding the medium of service and the allotted task. That is why the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League is so ideal a movement. There is work enough and to spare for each true patriot in its elastic boundaries. Increased membership means increased opportunities of service, for each Member brings with him his own interpretation of our Creed, his own ideas and his own needs.

* * * * *

THREE SPECIAL TASKS.—If we were to enumerate one tithe of the many objects which it is up to us to fulfil during the War, these notes would swell out of all proportion to the space allowed them, but on this our eighth birthday we are faced especially with three sacred tasks. The first, and in one sense, perhaps, the most important of these three is the development of our membership. This is the foundation on which the other two alone can be built. No one can read the objects of our Society without realising that they can never be fulfilled until every thinking Britisher, at home and overseas, has become so conscious of his duty to the Empire that he is anxious to link his efforts with those of countless of his fellow citizens, and in this union to strive after the highest Im-

News from Head-quarters.

perialism. We know that in this spirit we can count on each Member to take an active part in our membership Big Push, so that our goal of 50,000 subscribing Members may be reached before our tenth birthday (August 27th, 1920).

* * * * *

The second task which needs the co-operation of every Member is that of our War Memorial. An account of its progress will be found on p. 50, and by now most of our Members will have had the opportunity of reading the special booklet we have issued describing our aims in this connection. When, by our united efforts, our building is finally erected, it will surely be the most wonderful source of inspiration to all future generations. Each brick will be a memorial to a British hero who died that the ideals for which, thank God, our Empire stands might prevail, and the whole will be an offering by members of our race living in every corner of the habitable world, dedicated to building up the dreams and hopes of the twentieth century crusaders who followed the gleam and paid the price.

* * * * *

The third is the all-embracing task of social reconstruction. Our Imperialism expresses itself in the determination to create an Empire worth living and dying for and in promoting the health and happiness of every citizen so that each may develop the highest and best in them. The first important step we have taken toward this end is the godfathering of the Babies of the Empire movement about which you will have read in "The Wayfarer's Notes," in Dr. Truby King's article in the June issue and in that by Sir Alexander Roger on p. 61. We feel sure that all our Members will be ready to lend a hand to further a cause which seeks to build up a healthy new generation to replace the wastage of the old.

* * * * *

PRESENTATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT.—A very interesting ceremony took place at Brooklands on July 6th, when the Hon. H. Burton, M.L.A., one of the representatives of the Union of South Africa on the Imperial War Cabinet, presented two aeroplanes on behalf of the Over-Seas Club to the Royal Air Force through its representative Major J. L. Baird. One of these aeroplanes was the gift of the Members of our Benoni Branch and the other that of the Hon. Walter Greenacre, of Durban, "in recognition of the splendid services of the South African aviators." A photograph of the Benoni machine appears on p. 45, but, unfortunately, we have not one of Mr. Greenacre's gift. It was a picturesque sight ; South African and American contingents guarded the outskirts of the stretches of beautiful green turf ; groups of officers and others stood round the centre of the picture—the two powerful scouting 'planes, the

OVERSEAS

Harvest Time in the Old Country.

THIS MONTH'S HOME PRIZE PHOTOGRAPH.

A Harvest Scene in Cheshire. Reaping the Corn with Two Sturdy Teams. Sent by Miss E. Talbot, Nether Hill, Helsby, Cheshire.

The Main Road of an Old Warwickshire Village—Polesworth. Sent by Mr. F. Turner, Bishop's Stortford, Herts.

Mountain and Forest, British Columbia.

Sent by Mr. D. E. Turner, Vancouver, B.C.

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE PHOTOGRAPH.

A Telephotograph of the Lions, Capilano, taken at a distance of eight miles. These Mountains are 5,800 ft. in height, and are situated in North Vancouver.

An Unfinished and Abandoned Indian "Dug-out," a type of Canoe in use among the Indians on the Coast. It is made in one piece from a tree. This interesting relic is in Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C.

News from Headquarters.

one manned by a Canadian and the other by an Australian pilot. The machines were named, according to tradition, by the breaking of a bottle of champagne on the propeller of each. Their pilots entered them, circled slowly above the watchers below, and then flew straight out to France. We wish our generous South African friends could have taken part in the proceedings.

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THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE.—Our ommittee has been strengthened this month by the inclusion of Lady des Voeux, C.B.E., who is carrying out the duties of Hon. Director of Correspondence in Mr. Wrench's absence, in addition to those of Chairman of our Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund, which position she has held since its inauguration in 1915.

* * * * *

OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS.—We have been most fortunate in our choice of speakers at our last two meetings. In June Major G. H. Putnam, a veteran of the Civil War, whose name and personality is known throughout the length and breadth of America, and who forms a very special link between Great Britain and America, came to speak on the relations of England and America at the present time and of "the return of the *Mayflower*," as he so happily expressed it in the sending of her Expeditionary Forces. In July Mr. James Keeley, Editor of the *Chicago Herald*, told us how Americans have dealt with the fifteen million Germans and Austrians in their midst, and gave us many sidelights on America's War effort. Lord Denbigh, who presided on this occasion, completed a most interesting afternoon by illustrating, by means of excellent maps, the Pan-German plan for the domination of the world. The lounge was full to overflowing on both occasions.

* * *

LINKING UP OF BRANCHES.—Captain O. R. Brush, our H.C.S. at Montreux, Switzerland, has written to fifteen Branches in Europe, and twenty-three in other parts of the world, with a view to deepening the feeling of unity between Montreux and its sister Branches, and of exchanging ideas on

Major J. L. Baird, Parliamentary Secretary to the R.A.F. talking to Aviator of the Benoni Over Seas Club Aeroplane, at Brooklands, on July 6th.

News from Head-quarters.

O.S. activities, trade conditions, propaganda and other matters. Interesting replies to his letters are already coming in from the nearer Branches. We hope that local committees will make a point of corresponding regularly with, at least, one other O.S. centre, preferably in a different section of the Empire to themselves. This would do much to make us all realise, no matter where we are situated, that we are part of a whole, and should incite a friendly rivalry for results.

* * * * *

"OVERSEAS" AND THE B.E.F.—A Life Member of the Club, Captain R. Malet, M.C., R.G.A., has written to us recently with regard to getting the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League better known (apart from "smokes!") in France. He suggests that if we had a "With the B.E.F." section, supported entirely by Members on active service, a still greater interest in the progress of "Overseas" would be taken by them.

How does the idea appeal to our Naval and Military Members? Contributions might take the form of stories, articles, rhymes, or sketches illustrating the life "out there." A B.E.F. corner (owing to paper difficulties it would have to be a small one) should be welcomed even more by us at home than by the "boys" themselves.

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VISITORS AT HEADQUARTERS.—We have been particularly glad to welcome last month Mr. G. Seddon, the energetic Chairman of the Grand Canary Branch, and Mr. H. Haseldon Lewis, Hon. Secretary of the Katanga (Belgian Congo) Branch, who has done such excellent work in organising a War Savings Campaign throughout Katanga. On an average 800—1,000 Members sign their names in the Members' Book in the entrance hall each month.

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LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND.—Our Members everywhere will be delighted to learn that our first Old Country Branch has been established with flying colours. We are much indebted to the enthusiasm and excellent work of our H.C.S., Miss G. Turnley, to whom this happy result is largely due. On June 30th, 1918, the Liverpool Branch was formally opened. Rear-Admiral H. H. Stileman, Senior Naval Officer of the port, was the chief speaker. Mr. A. D. Cameron, Assistant Director of Education presided. The programme of the Liverpool Branch includes the establishing of Club rooms in the city, the visiting of friendless overseas men in military hospitals, the entertaining of nurses and soldiers who may be stationed far from home, and the organising of an exchange of correspondence between Liverpool schools and schools overseas. We very much hope that the last idea will interest readers of these lines and that such an exchange may be organised. Miss Turnley's address is 34, Buckingham Avenue, Sefton Park, Liverpool. All good wishes go to her and all her helpers.

GRAND CANARY BRANCH.—It is always a pleasure to read the monthly letter which the Committee of the Grand Canary Branch circulates among its Members. The March-April letter is just to hand, and describes a number of well-organised "side shows" of which a pleasing feature is the cordial co-operation of Spanish friends. The Queen of Entertainers in Grand Canary is, evidently, Mrs. Wootton.

OVERSEAS

News from Headquarters.

An entertainment she organised on April 30th was so successful that, together with the proceeds of a raffle, it raised the sum of £115 net for the Red Cross. It is impossible even to mention the various activities on which the Grand Canary Branch is engaged or the names of those who are helping on the work, but we feel we must comment on two points raised in their monthly letter. The first is their determination to prevent the overlapping of patriotic efforts, and the second is their action with regard to the War Memorial. In commending the idea to their Members, the Committee writes : "It behoves us to do our share and, if possible, more than our share, for, being in closer touch with the Motherland than Britons in more distant countries, we are likely to make more frequent use of the Club than they." We hope that the Grand Canary Branch will be perpetuated by the endowment of a room in our Overseas Building. Treasurer, Mr. G. W. Lang-Lenton ; Secretary, Mr. S. H. M. Head.

NAPLES, ITALY.—The Empire Day celebrations at the Embassy Gardens at Posillipo went off splendidly. Consul-General P. A. Somers-Cocks, formerly President of the Lisbon Branch, unfurled the flag and made a stirring speech. Patriotic songs, recitations and sports were thoroughly enjoyed by the boys and girls, and the Rev. T. J. Irving gave an excellent and appropriateaddress. Our War Memorial scheme is being laid before the Members. Secretary, T. E. Ellis.

CARTHAGENA, SPAIN.—At the well-attended Empire Day dinner at Carthagena a special appeal was made for the Y.M.C.A. Hut Fund and £123 raised. During dinner a telegram from H.B.M.'s Consul at Malaga was read appealing for funds for the Foreign and British Sailors Society. The Chairman, Mr. Enthoven, generously defrayed the cost of the dinner, and the ticket money was thus allocated to this Society. Secretary, Mr. F. T. Berkley.

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA. — The Berkeley Branch, we are glad to say, is now "well on the map." Monthly lectures in the Club rooms are arranged. The guild of O.S. women workers in Red Cross uniforms are a well-known sight, and a splendid list of comforts has been forwarded. Mrs. Isgar, the Hon. Secretary, tells us that her secretarial duties are expanding every day, and that the spirit of comradeship is more and more noticeable.

PRETORIA, TRANSVAAL. — This Branch is run on excellent lines, following the tradition of all South African Branches. There are now 196 Members. Miss O. Fogerty, Secretary; Mr. L. Handley, Treasurer.

ELTHAM, N.Z.—On his own initiative, in order to save Headquarters trouble, Mr. W. D. Ross, our H.C.S. at Eltham, collected the 1918 renewals in his district. To date, 84 remittances have been received through him in this connection. "Overseas" is read by practically every Member of this Branch, an ideal to which

Mr. Ernest Crabtree's two dogs "Snookie" (the Skye terrier) and "Napoleon" (the fox terrier), which collected £25 in pennies in aid of the Destitute Belgian Children's Fund. Sent by Mr. W. Ross, Eltham, N.Z.

News from Headquarters.

we hope all Branches will soon attain. On page 47 the activities of Mr. Ernest Crabtree and his two terriers are recorded.

MANAOS, BRAZIL.—Generous contributions from this Branch are continually being forwarded. The latest remittance is £53. Secretary Mr. L. W. Turner.

ORURO, BOLIVIA.—There are now fifty-one Members and two Associates at Oruro ; £598 has been collected during the year. Mr. A. Cameron Quin, Secretary.

NUKUALOFA, TONGA.—The *Recorder*, that enterprising paper of the Tonga Islands, dedicated to the stimulus of patriotic effort, gives a full account of the Nukualofa Branch's Annual General Meeting held on January 25th, 1918. The President, Mr. I. McOwan (British Consul), presided. The Annual Report, drawn up by the Secretary, Mr. J. Darrel Wall, together with the Balance Sheet, prepared by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. M. Masterton, were presented to the meeting and warmly approved. Nukualofa's record is a splendid one. Since August, 1915, over £1,485 has been subscribed by Members of the Branch and sent to Headquarters to be divided among fourteen funds. The King of Tonga, his Prime Minister and Chiefs, have rendered excellent patriotic assistance to the Branch.

DAIREN, MANCHURIA.—Secretary, Mr. W. H. Winning. £118 has been recently sent us for distribution, collected at a social gathering held at Mrs. R. A. Brock's house.

ILOILO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—Mr. H. B. Foster has been elected Secretary for the current year on the retirement of Mr. C. H. Hawkins. The new Committee consists of Mr. W. A. Muir, Chairman; Mr. W. U. A. Whyte, Hon. Treasurer ; and Messrs. MacMurray (ex-Chairman), A.I. Robinson, E. W. M. Saul, J. Scott, and C. H. Hawkins.

OPORTO, PORTUGAL.—Oporto has collected £429 to date. Elsewhere we refer to their encouraging attitude with regard to the War Memorial (see page 50). We shall watch the progress of the fund for an Oporto Room in our Overseas Building with interest. Mr. A. Blake refers to the question of the British Nationality and Status of Aliens' Act. Once more we must repeat that this matter has not been forgotten, and ask our Members who feel strongly on the question to exercise their patience for a while.

BANGKOK, SIAM.—We very much regret to learn that our H.C.S., M. J. Mackay, whose interesting snapshots of Bangkok and its surroundings have so often appeared in "Overseas," is leaving Bangkok for some months. We wish him good luck wherever he may go. On Our Day a War Loan Lottery held under auspices of League realised £16,000 and about £4,800 for the Red Cross. Secretary, Mr. A. Carson.

PAPEETE, TAHITI, SOCIETY ISLANDS.—Owing to the absence of Members on active service, the Papeete Branch has shrunk to the modest number of thirteen Members—so unlucky a number that we hope the fourteenth will soon be found! The Branch has just forwarded to Headquarters £23 4*s.* 8*d.* Secretary, Mr. Frank Holmes.

UP-COUNTRY SIAM.—The Up-Country Siam Branch was inaugurated in March, 1915, and embraces Members in Chiengmai, Lakon, Prae, Raheng-Bannar, Salween, Nan, Bangkok, Pitsanuloke and Sawankaloke. To date it has subscribed Rs.44,732.75. The Hon. Secretary, Mr. D. F. Macfie, in forwarding the list for 1917, tells us that though the Branch only numbers forty-nine Members, last year they collected £970 for War purposes, and a special appeal is being made to increase

(Continued at conclusion of Special Supplement.)

THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR.

The Fourth Anniversary of the War.

THE following Supplement, which has been issued to commemorate the Fourth Anniversary of the Great War, is dedicated to Great Britain's supreme effort during the past four years. It is fitting that an Imperial journal should pay such a tribute, which, while not for a moment belittling the wonderful part the Dominions and the Dependencies have played in the world struggle, recognises that the burden and heat of the day of necessity has fallen on the Mother Country, whose contribution in man power alone is 74·7 per cent. of that of the whole Empire. The generous messages which the Dominion Representatives to the Imperial War Cabinet have sent strike a note which we think will meet with warm response from our Members throughout the Seven Seas. From time to time we have issued special Dominion numbers of "Overseas," and we feel sure that our readers will welcome on this occasion the opportunity of expressing their gratitude to the Motherland.

EDITOR.

ENGLAND.

I SEE her not dispirited, not weak, but well remembering that she has seen dark days before ; indeed, with a kind of instinct that she sees a little better in a cloudy day, and that in storm of battle and calamity she has a secret vigour and a pulse like cannon. I see her in her old age, not decrepit, but young, and still daring to believe in her power of endurance and expansion. Seeing this, I say, All hail ! Mother of nations, Mother of heroes, with strength still equal to the time ; still wise to entertain and swift to execute the policy which the mind and heart of mankind require at the present hour, and thus only hospitable to the foreigner, and truly a home to the thoughtful and generous, who are born in the soil.

EMERSON (1856).

OVERSEAS

A Song of the English

(By kind permission of Mr. Rudyard Kipling)

A Song of the English.

WE were dreamers, dreaming greatly, in the man-stifled town ;
We yearned beyond the sky-line where the strange roads go down.
Came the Whisper, came the Vision, came the Power with the Need,
Till the Soul that is not man's soul was lent us to lead.

As the deer breaks—as the steer breaks—from the herd where they graze,
In the faith of little children we went on our ways.
Then the wood failed—then the food failed—then the last water dried—
In the faith of little children we lay down and died.

On the sanddrift—on the veldt-side—in the fern-shrub we lay,
That our sons might follow after by the bones on the way.
Follow after—follow after! We have watered the root,
And the bud has come to blossom that ripens for fruit !

Follow after—we are waiting, by the trails that we lost,
For the sounds of many footsteps, for the tread of a host.
Follow after—follow after—for the harvest is sown :
By the bones about the wayside ye shall come to your own !

RUDYARD KIPLING.

Out of the night that covers me
Black as the pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods there be
For my unconquerable soul.

W. E. HENLEY.

Mr. Rudyard Kipling.

What Great Britain has Done in the World War

By F. A. McKenzie

GREAT BRITAIN will live, despite her enemies, because Great Britain deserves to live. Her people have proved in these dark and trying days that they possess the same great qualities that made the England of the Plantagenets, the England of Drake and Frobisher, the England of Pitt and of Wellington, the land which century after century has stood for freedom.

Even so recently as the summer of 1914, the favourite topic of many writers was the degeneration of Great Britain. Our young men, we were told, were pleasure mad ; our young women had forgotten home duties and home ties ; our business men and methods were antiquated. In enterprise after enterprise eager rivals were reaching up to us. Germans, in particular, wrote pungent and forceful criticisms on our decline, criticisms which were nowhere read with greater interest than in Great Britain itself. Minor faults were magnified and major virtues kept out of sight. We had our faults. But what the critics did not realize was that our faults were mere superficial blemishes on the sound and prosperous body politic.

Then came war. We were not prepared. We had taken no adequate steps to raise a large army or to equip any considerable force. Our aeroplane service was negligible. Only a few of the more progressive men in the Navy were awake to the possibilities of the submarine. We were without a financial plan of campaign and the mobilization of industry for war had not been seriously contemplated. Our very unreadiness is the best reply that can be given to the now wholly exploded German charges that Great Britain provoked and desired this war. The people of Great Britain had to initiate their serious preparations for world war in August, 1914, under the most tremendous disadvantages. We had to make ready for war with the enemy hammering at our gates.

This was the testing hour of Britain.

There was one great factor in our favour, the factor which saved the situation and gave us time to reconstruct our entire national organization—The Navy. While we had still much to learn of the possibilities of under-water war, our Navy was so strong and so well-manned that the seas of the world passed into our possession the hour war was declared. They have remained ours since.

The British land forces at the outbreak of the war numbered :—

Regulars	250,000
Reserves	200,000
Territorials (partly trained)	250,000

What Great Britain has Done in the World War.

For the purposes of Continental land war we had the Expeditionary Force, numbering 160,000—the "Old Contemptibles," as the remnants now proudly call themselves. They had been the laughing stock of every German officers' Club for years past. All the world knows that they proved themselves the finest fighting force that has ever been known. But 160,000 men cannot fight millions. Mons and the Marne put out of action most of the highly trained modern officers on whom we had relied. Lord Kitchener had to start building again with a very small nucleus.

Figures tell what has been done. In the first year of the war two million young men voluntarily joined the Colours. By May, 1916, the total voluntary enlistment in the Army and the Navy numbered over five millions. The Minister of National Service gave the total of the armed forces of the Crown on January 14th, 1918, as 7,500,000. The enlistment from the United Kingdom alone then numbered 5,600,000. Mr. Lloyd George stated on June 27th last that in all about six million men had been taken out of civil life in the United Kingdom during this war for the service of the country. The overwhelming majority of these, it will be noted, were not conscripts but volunteers.

No other land can show anything proportionately like the voluntary enlistment of the manhood of Great Britain during the war. The Dominions have done magnificently, but it was not to be expected that under the conditions of life in young countries they should be able to spare so large a proportion of their men. Before the war had lasted a year, there was scarcely an able-bodied man left in large areas of the Highlands of Scotland. Every man had volunteered. Yorkshire miners and Lancashire mill hands, London clerks and shopmen, young men of wealth and leisure, and farm labourers had offered themselves *en masse*. The Professors at our universities found their calling gone, for their pupils had vanished to fight and die for England, and many of the Professors, too old for the fighting front, found that they were not too old for service in other ways for the King.

When even this great army of men, this volunteer force of millions, was seen to be insufficient, Great Britain placed herself under the most drastic and most drastically enforced conscription. We are now taking seniors up to the age of fifty-one and lads from the age of eighteen for the Army. All over the country the small business man is shutting up his shop and pasting a notice on his shutters, "Proprietor called to the Colours. Business closed until the end of the War." Professional men who had built up their connections by a quarter of a century of patient work have abandoned all to put on khaki. Wives, accustomed to the comfort and luxury of British middle-class home life, are shutting up their houses, dismissing their maids, going into apartments,

attending to themselves and their children, while the husband fights for Britain. No one acclaims their sacrifice ; it has become the normal condition of things.

What Great Britain has Done in the World War.

The mobilisation of industry for war is a subject by itself. After some hesitation and false steps, the whole manufacturing resources of the country were organised in the summer of 1915 under the leadership of Mr. Lloyd George for war production. Great cities have sprung up in waste places. Quiet country parishes have been covered with shell factories, explosive factories and filling factories.

Cities like Coventry and towns like Woolwich have multiplied their population of workers, who labour in day and night shifts with an output which makes the old tales of American "speeding" up sink into significance.

We have not only been able to supply our own great armies with munitions and equipment, but have also manufactured on an enormous scale for our Allies. The boot factories of Northampton and Leicester have shod millions of French, Italian, Russian and Belgian troops. The woollen factories of Yorkshire have clothed many of our Allies. Our ordnance factories have turned out guns and shells not alone for Great Britain, but for all who are aiding Great Britain. Every one knows that the main new equipment of Russia, after the first phase of the War, came from Great Britain. Our merchant ships have had to provide transport and to carry supplies for all the countries that were helping us. The British Fleet has held the seas, not for Great Britain alone, but for the world. In every field, from the supply of fuel to the production of giant aeroplanes, British industrial organising skill has led the way.

One aspect of our new life must never be forgotten, the part women have played.

It became clear early in the War that men alone could not hope to do all the work that was necessary ; women must help. The women of Britain have given their services in a way that four years ago would have seemed unthinkable.

It was easy and natural that women should replace men in shops, in postal work, in secondary railway duties, as tram conductors, and as drivers of delivery wagons. It was natural that large numbers of girls from well-to-do homes should volunteer for the laborious drudgery of the Voluntary Aid Detachments in hospitals in Great Britain. But our women-folk have gone much beyond that. In munition factories to-day hundreds of thousands of women, many of them women of means, are tackling, day in and day out, and year in and year out, hard, dangerous, heavy, manual work, making shells, handling explosives, filling shells. Women of wealth and culture have joined the ranks of the manual workers for the sake of Britain. The domestic servant of yesterday is to-day facing dangers in the shell-filling houses as real as the

What Great Britain has Done in the World War.

soldier in the trenches. She faces them with a laugh and a jest. The girls working in the explosives rooms are the merriest in England. The High School girl is doing her night shift around the fierce heat of the furnaces.

In the twin corps of the W.A.A.C. and the W.R.E.N. women are submitting to exacting discipline, the discipline of the soldier. The women in khaki and the hospital Sisters in France and on the High Seas are enduring and gladly enduring the most trying of all war conditions, where they are under shell fire, aerial bombardment and submarine shelling and torpedoing without a chance of themselves striking back at the enemy. No field of work has more volunteers than that which takes the women right into the danger zone.

The men and women who have been unable for various reasons to give their whole time to war work have given their leisure. An enormous amount of voluntary work is done by elderly men and by women earning their living in ordinary business. The elderly professional man who has to work twice as hard as in olden times because his young assistants have gone to the war, spends two or three nights a week parading the streets as a special constable. There is no glory here, simply loss of rest and some danger. The shop girl gives her evening to voluntary work as waitress in a Y.M.C.A. These are two examples among many. This systematic voluntary work goes on in every part of the country to an extent undreamed of by most of us.

The people of Great Britain have given not only themselves but their money. They have put upon themselves a system of taxation more drastic than anything ever dreamed possible before war began. To-day they are raising £842,000,000 a year by taxation, apart from loans. They are paying income tax, including super-tax, at from 2*s*. 3*d*. to 10*s*. 6*d*. in the £. The very rich man is paying over one half of his income in these two taxes alone. The cost of railway travelling has been raised to 50 per cent. We are imposing a luxury tax of 2*d*. on the 1*s*. New taxation of many kinds has been devised. Simultaneously the rise in the cost of essentials of life has brought the purchasing value of the sovereign down to not more than 12*s*. The ordinary middle-class Briton, who is earning about the same nominal income as he was at the outbreak of the War, is actually in the same position as though his income had been cut in half, had prices remained stationary. This has not prevented the people of Great Britain from pouring out their stored treasures by the many thousands of millions in war loans.

Great Britain has given the lie to her detractors. She has paid the price willingly, knowing that great ends are only attained at great cost. What end could be greater than that for which we have staked our all—the Freedom of the World ?

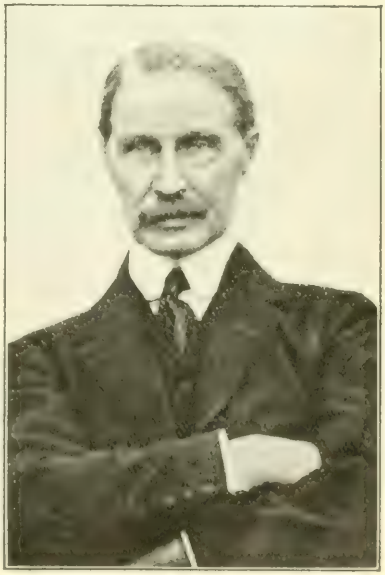
How Great Britain has Financed the Empire and Helped the Allies

By the Rt. Hon. A. Bonar Law, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer

How Great Britain has Financed the Empire and Helped the Allies.

[*One of the miracles of the War which is perhaps least realised by the "man in the street" is the way in which Great Britain, in spite of the colossal expenditure to which she has been committed during the past four years, has maintained her credit throughout the world. The following article will give some idea of the magnitude of the task with which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is faced.—Editor.*]

IN a recent Vote of Credit statement I took occasion to inform the House of Commons that on the 8th of June our Allies owed us in respect of War advances £1,370,000,000, and the Dominions on the same date £206,000,000. These figures would speak for themselves if they had not reached a magnitude which it is almost impossible for the mind to grasp. It is possible, I believe, for the public to grasp the scope of the effort involved in raising an army of 5,000,000 men, and we all can form some conception in these days of what £100,000,000 means, but it is almost impossible to reduce to the normal standard of human imagination such a vast sum as £1,000,000,000. Let me put it in this way—that the sum of one thousand million pounds represents the labour of ten million men for a year at £2 a week. It is for this consideration that the immensity and importance of our efforts in raising money, not only for our own requirements of the War but also for those of our Allies and the Empire at large, very naturally do not receive the full appreciation they deserve. There is also this further reason. Finance in War is not spectacular. It does not appeal so vividly to the imagination as some of the other branches of War activity: nevertheless a little reflection will show at once the fundamental importance to the Allies of what we have done in the realm of finance, and even a superficial study of the subject will reveal the



Mr. A. Bonar Law, M.P.

How Great Britain has Financed the Empire and Helped the Allies.

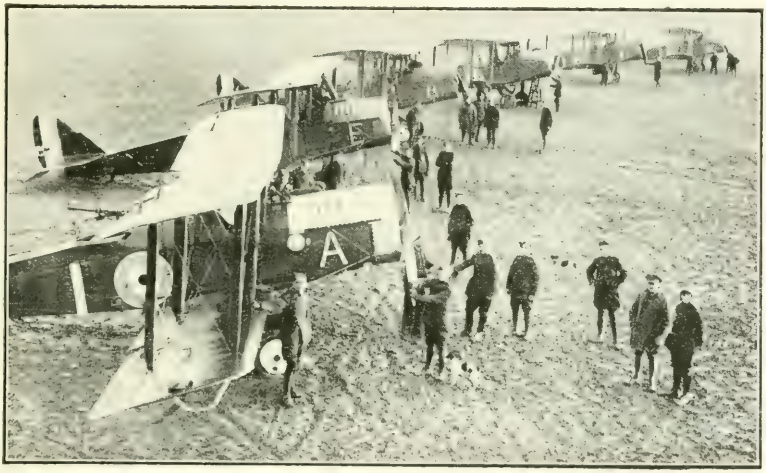
enormous difficulties under which we have laboured in the performance of the task.

It should be remembered that to the extent to which we have lent money to an Ally, by so much has her Finance Minister been relieved of the necessity of raising funds in his own country. The moral effect of that situation was incalculable. If indeed the matter had ended there our own part of the business would have been comparatively simple; but it must be remembered that our Allies were able to use our loans to obtain foreign currency required for urgent supplies from neutral countries, of which the most important, I need not say, was for nearly three years the United States. Thus the Allies could obtain dollars in America or florins in Holland against our credit and our securities. The whole financial credit of the Entente throughout the world was founded upon that of Great Britain, and it was due to our success in maintaining our own credit that all the Allies were enabled to draw from every quarter of the globe essential supplies of food and raw materials and every kind of engine and implement of war. The strain upon our credit was enormous, but we have succeeded in preserving it partly, because we have been able to maintain a foreign trade which, if necessarily diminished in volume, is still substantial, and, partly, because we have been able from within our own shores to supply a large proportion of the necessaries of War to our Allies, which otherwise must have been purchased and paid for abroad.

It is hardly necessary for me to emphasize the fact that a breakdown in British credit would have had the most disastrous consequences upon the conduct or even ultimate success of the War. Every one can realize that it is not possible to maintain a vast fleet to guard our shores and protect the great trade routes from attack by the enemy, to convert our country into a vast arsenal for the production of the material of War, and to maintain a substantial export trade without limiting the number of men that can be placed immediately under arms. Yet in spite of the enormous drafts upon our man power which the creation of our splendid Army entailed, production has reached the high-water mark. Indeed it has been one of the most difficult tasks of the Government to strike the mean between the demand on the one hand for men necessary for production which was vital to the maintenance of our financial equilibrium at home and abroad, and, on the other, for men, equally necessary, in order to keep our armies in the field up to strength. It is no exaggeration to say that the financing of our Allies in this country and in many places abroad through nearly four years of War with but slight restriction in supplies and no financial difficulty unsurmounted is, if not the most striking, by no means the least important of our achievements in the common cause.

A. BONAR LAW.

With the R.A.F.

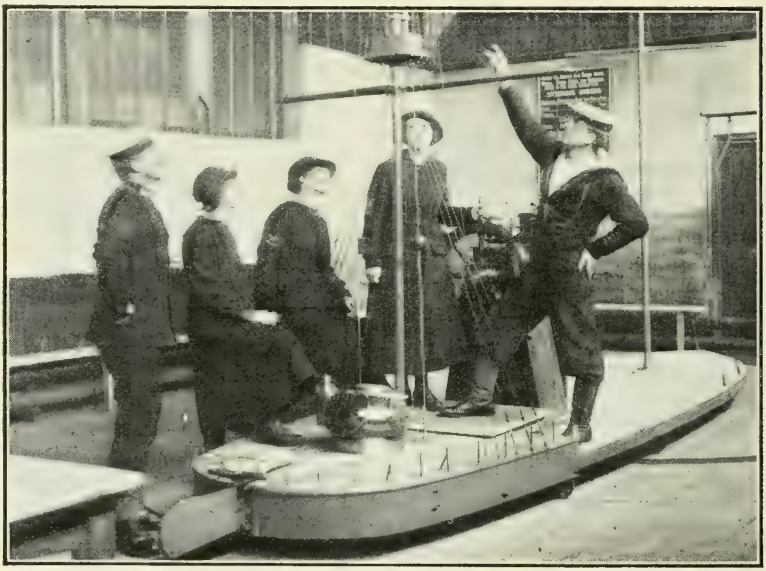


A Day-Bombing Squadron in France. Some of the Big Bombing Machines.

A Fighting Plane starting out to meet Enemy Planes. The Bosche does not care to attack our machines unless the odds are at least three to one.

OVERSEAS

The "Wrens" in Training.



In the Model Room. A Class of Three being shown the System of Steering and Rigging by a Jack Tar Instructor.

"Eyes Right!" A Company of the Wrens marching past Miss Cowdray, Deputy Inspector, outside the Crystal Palace.

Great Britain's Army of War Workers

By the Rt. Hon. Sir Auckland Geddes, Director-General of National Service

Great Britain's Army of War Workers.

FOUR full years ago the Old Country, unprepared for the onslaught of the nations, shook off the dust of years of peace and happiness, and leapt to the call. The response of her young men to the demand for soldiers was magnificent, overwhelming. They flocked from factory and field to the flag ; dropped their tools and picked up the rifle. The Army of two hundred thousand became an Army of millions, and the march of the Hun westwards was stayed. But that first great rush of eager men, while it gave the Army the strength it so sorely needed, disorganised and weakened the ship-yards, the coal-mines, the factories and the fields. Organised production fell into disorder, and a swollen Army looked in vain for its full supplies. Production, robbed of many of its youngest and most energetic workers, organised, but not for a national effort, was unable to stand the strain. Efforts that then seemed almost superhuman were made, and the balance was adjusted. Then, once more, the demand on the Old Country for men, for munitions, for money became grievous. The Allies had to be supported ; her Armies had to be increased and supplied. The problem of distributing available supplies of labour, as well as fighting men, became acute. To-day, after four years, there is no slackening in those demands, and they are still being supplied. Men are still going from industry to the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force; the call for ships, for aeroplanes, for guns and ammunition has grown to undreamt of proportions. As I write, the French newspapers are telling us that the gaps in our great Army on the Western front that were a necessary consequence of the German offensive have been filled.

Sir Auckland Geddes, K.C.B.

The British Army, spread over five fronts, stands firm, fully equipped with men and material, upholding gloriously the traditions of the Old Contemptibles. Behind that Army stands another, which is playing a part no less essential to the winning of the War. Its battles are

Great Britain's Army of War Workers.

fought in the shipyard, the coal-mine, the shell-factory, and the cornfield. Its weapons are the loom, the lathe, the drill, the plough, and the steam-tractor. Its Tommies are the five million men and women who are ceaselessly engaged on every form of war-work ; its N.C.O.'s, the shop-stewards, the foremen, and the managers of the innumerable firms that have been enlisted in this great campaign ; its officers the Trade Union leaders, and the great business organisers who are co-operating in the common national effort. Its co-ordinating head is the Ministry of National Service.

The achievement is mighty. Only the splendid patriotism of the people made it possible to secure not only the fighting Army, but the great industrial force behind it. Old men, and women of all ages have taken, are taking, the places of the young, fit men who go to the fighting ranks. Let it be stated clearly that we have no industrial conscription : voluntary effort is meeting our industrial needs. The Ministry of National Service, in carrying out its great task of organising the forces of the nation for the maximum endeavour, enlists the ready assistance of all the forces of capital and labour. Masters and men give willing aid. At the foundation of its work lies the national register. The Ministry has in its great card-indexes particulars of all men of military ages—now 18 to 51. It knows how the men not taken for the fighting forces are employed. It knows, too, how essential manufactures are staffed ; how this must have assistance, how that can spare a few more men, and so on. It watches, too, dilution of industries by women labour ; the substitution of the younger, fitter men who must go from the bench to the barracks, by older men or soldiers who are no longer of full military value. To-day, at the end of four years of war, after a crescendo of demands on her endurance and resources that would not have been thought possible even three years ago, the Old Country stands firm as a rock, organised and ready to meet the calls that the great final victory may entail.

The work has its difficulties. It must not be forgotten that the conditions with which the Ministry of National Service has to deal vary from month to month, and almost from week to week. A period of comparative quiescence on the fighting fronts means a diminished demand on the munition factories. Then the battle suddenly blazes up again. Huge quantities of shell are needed for an offensive, or guns and ammunition dumps are destroyed in a retreat and the losses must be made good with unimaginable speed. More men must be found for the Armies at home and abroad. Or perhaps the harvest season is approaching and the farmers declare that they cannot get in their crops without additional labour. Food production is a vital national interest and labour has to be found. Men are temporarily released from the Army, in order to assist in the land campaign, volunteers are called for from civil life,

Great Britain's Army of War Workers.

women and school children go to the fields. The activities of the U-boat, again, may intensify or they may slacken off, and the demands of the shipyards will expand or decrease in natural response. The discovery of a new invention or the need to combat a new device of the enemy's means the prompt transfer of thousands of men and women to work which they have never handled before. The whole situation is one of continuous flux. No hard and fast rule can be laid down as to the quota of men and women which should be alloted to any particular service. The ratio of necessity is constantly changing, but the demands have to be met.

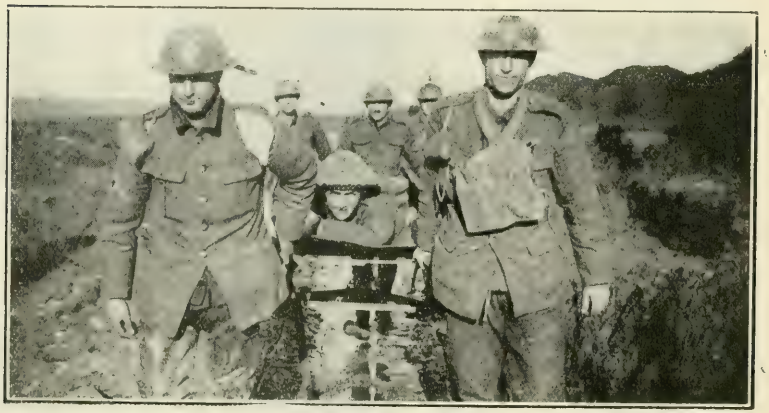
Recent events illustrate my meaning. The Ministry was called upon to find the men required to meet the German onset in the West, the enemy having been reinforced by divisions brought from the Russian front. The men have been found from the factories, the mines, and the land ; the emergency has been met. Masters and men, organisations of capitalists and the Trade Unions have had their share in releasing the men. To-day their places are being filled by older men where possible, and where replacement is not possible, the production of the industry has been cut down and still further restriction placed upon a rationed nation. For the coming harvest, every possible source of labour is being secured. Volunteers are being enrolled from among the older men, women are being placed in agricultural corps, schoolboys and girls are being organised into working parties, and convalescent soldiers are to be used. The shipyards want men. They are being found by the release of men from the Army, and by the enrolment of War Work Volunteers. So with the aerodromes and aeroplane work. Even voluntary and part-time work has been organised. The national emergency requires that every possible pair of hands shall be placed upon national work in either the fighting or the industrial Army. It has been the object of the Ministry of National Service throughout to mobilise the man and woman power of the country and to utilise it, both with the greatest economy and the greatest effect. It forms, so to speak, the great central clearing house for the demands of the various war services, and endeavours, to the utmost of its ability, to see that those demands are adjusted fairly and with the greatest benefit to the national cause as a whole.

Two Officers of Q.M.A.A.C. sitting outside their Office.

Great Britain's Army of War Workers.

Let me repeat that it would be utterly wrong to assume that the Ministry is called upon to play the part of a task-master, driving unwilling servants to work under threat of pains and penalties. The precise contrary is the case. The citizens of the Old Country have responded with splendid and eager enthusiasm to every call that has been made upon them, and the task of the Ministry of National Service has been to supervise, to co-ordinate and to organise this magnificent and spontaneous effort. We are not a military people, and nothing was further from our desires than that war should become for us, as it has been for Prussia since her first beginnings, a "national industry." But, since the necessity was forced upon us, despite all our endeavours to avoid it, we have gone about our task in no half-hearted manner. The whole of Britain is at war to-day. Men and women have come forward in their hundreds of thousands to take their voluntary share in the national effort and, as I have good reason to know, it has often been difficult to find an adequate outlet for the immense energy which has sought to express itself in war service. At the beginning of this year (for obvious reasons it would be inadvisable to give the figures for to-day) there were about 5,000,000 men and women directly engaged on "Government work." This number does not include those employed in agriculture, in transport and distribution, in private forms of war service, or in nursing, and in the hundred and one occupations which can be the subject of accurate statistical estimate. Women have rendered magnificent service, and the story of their achievement is told elsewhere. Retired and super-annuated men have returned to their former callings ; boys and girls have stepped into the places vacated by their seniors. Every home in Britain has its stake in the great enterprise upon which we are engaged.

A. GEDDES.



Wounded but cheerful.

OVERSEAS

Newspapers and the War

By Viscount Northcliffe

Newspapers and the War.

WHEN the war came in 1914, the Germans alone had solved the difficult problems of news and censorship. For many years they had studied profoundly the power of suggestion possessed by a constant reiteration of printed type ; they had laid their plans carefully at home and abroad and had purchased neutral newspapers in the United States, South America, Spain, Sweden, the Far East, Switzerland, Greece, and elsewhere. Meanwhile the British Press had been adroitly flattered and cajoled by von Kuhlmann, the story of whose London activities has yet to be told, as well as by those great agencies of German propaganda, the Hamburg-American Steamship Company and the German Banks. What the Germans call "bamboozle trips" to Germany were organised by German propagandists for the free entertainment of British editors.

In the first days of August, 1914, by an instant and audacious effort of suggestion, the German newspapers and wireless convinced Germany, Austria and a great part of the world that the Germans were fighting a battle of self-defence ! Our Government so ill understood its relations to the Press, that von Kuhlmann and other Germans were still telegraphing to English newspapers at the very opening of the War. Had these duped newspapers been of any real influence, great harm might have been done. As it was, the statements circulated by German speakers and German newspapers and our pro-Germans kept many of our people in a confused state of mind as to the War until long after it had begun.

The work of German newspapers during the War has been to stimulate their own people and to cause dissension among their opponents. "England will fight to the last Frenchman" or to the last Canadian or to the last Australian—such has been the continual theme of German propaganda ; and how effective it has proved is well known to all those who have had the misfortune to travel in neutral countries during the War, countries in which the Germans publish columns upon columns of lying wireless messages, cunningly mixing therein a little truth with an intolerable amount of falsehood.

Viscount Northcliffe.

Newspapers and the War.

In brief, the German use of the Press during the War is of the same nature as their use of scientific products and inventions—barbarous and efficient. And to-day the German Press is still increasing its sphere of baleful influence. It has lately acquired further powerful newspapers in Austria, and seems to have won complete control over a portion of the Russian Press.

By contrast with the accomplishments of the German newspapers let us look at our own. The British Press has played a great and noble part in the War, in spite of many unnecessary obstacles which have been put in its way. On the one hand, it has been subject by Government to humiliating restrictions; on the other, it has been importuned day after day by Government departments to give publicity to this, that or the other desire of the Cabinet. At the same time the raw material of its production has been reduced more drastically than the raw material of almost any other industry. Let us recall a few of the services which the Press has rendered.

Though the Government does not recognise the necessity of the newspapers, the Food Controller's department, for instance, could not exist without them, since they carry into every home, at a few hours' notice, the inevitable changes in the rationing of the food of the people. The call for men would not be heard without the voice of the Press. The newspapers have encouraged flying, the employment of women, the control of the many rich and powerful scheming Germans at work in our midst, the building of ships and the development of agriculture. One newspaper alone has devoted hundreds of columns to explaining the complicated system of food control. The funds raised by newspapers during the War for prisoners' parcels, comforts for the soldiers and sailors, Red Cross and war charities of every kind amount already to many millions. To show the power of suggestion by continuity of expression, one of the high authorities of the Red Cross says that if the appeal is omitted from the *Times* for a single day the subscriptions at once begin to fall off.

As far as they are permitted, the newspapers give an accurate and faithful account of the War. But here again they are hampered needlessly in the discharge of their duty. To give but a few of a hundred foolish restrictions. They are not allowed to publish the total of our wounded and killed, which any accountant, enemy or otherwise, can discover from the published list of casualties. They are not allowed to describe the weather, though the Germans are provided with meteorological instruments that have never failed them to define the weather either here or in France. They are subject to a censorship which has been continually used for personal and political reasons, and which has misled, and still misleads, the public as to the depredations of the submarine.

In truth, it is not too much to say that newspapers, Metropolitan, Dominion, and Provincial, Scotch and Irish, of many shades of thought and opinion, have helped to keep politicians in the straight path, and more or less alive to the very heavy responsibilities which have been cast upon them.

*** *Owing to influenza at the printing office of "Overseas" it was impossible to submit a proof to Lord Northcliffe in time for corrections.*

The Miracle of Munitions

How Britain has Mobilised her Industries for War

By Sir Laming Worthington Evans, M.P., Late Financial Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions

WAR is the fruitful mother of revolutions. Thrones have tottered at her touch. Systems have shaken at the sound of her trumpets. August and venerated institutions have been overset at the distant thunder of her cannon. It was war that, in the ultimate resort, broke up the Roman Empire and ushered in the twilight of the Dark Ages. It was war that bowed the Imperial pride of Spain. It was war, in England, that beheaded a king and trailed the tattered banner of absolutism in the dust. It has been war in Russia, during these last years of destiny, that has overthrown the Tzardom and set anarchy to rule in tyranny's abandoned seat.

But if war destroys, she also creates. All things are made new at her imperious bidding, and while in one hand she carries the sword, the trowel as often as not is in the other. And among the myriad revolutions which war has begotten, surely none is more startling than that which she has wrought in British industry during the last four years. When in August, 1914, Germany hurled her challenge to us across the violated fields of Belgium, our industrial system was that of a peaceful and somewhat insular people. Our factories were engaged in the production of the necessities, the comforts, and the amenities conformable to a pacific civilisation. The argosies of our commerce plied their way across the oceans and bore us merchandise from the four quarters of the earth. Throughout the whole length and breadth of the United Kingdom there were only three national arsenals, and the labour employed in the manufacture of munitions was but a drop in the ocean of industrial effort. War, indeed, had almost passed out of our mental vocabulary. It survived, an obsolete anachronism, among the half savage States of the Balkans, but that it should engulf us—our well-being, our homes, our very lives—this seemed the nightmare of a fevered brain.

Sir L. Worthington Evans, M.P., Minister of Blockade.

And then, from a sky that, to all

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but a handful of Englishmen, seemed clear and untroubled, the bolt fell. Nightmare had become reality. Britain was at war. The Fleet was ready, the little Expeditionary Force was flung across the Channel, and we girded ourselves for a prolonged and bitter struggle. How bitter and how prolonged few, in those early days, understood, and our endeavour to transform our industry from a peace to a war basis was not accomplished immediately. But, once she has put her hand to the plough, it is not the habit of Britain to look back. With a supreme effort she adjusted herself to the new and unparalleled conditions and effected a revolution as complete, as overwhelming, as far-reaching, as any in her national history. To-day she is one immense arsenal, her man and woman power mobilised, her industries placed upon a war footing, her every thought and energy concentrated upon the one task of supplying her fighting forces with their essential needs. The very face of Britain has been changed. New factories have sprung up by the thousand, and where four years ago there was nought but sleepy fields, there are now acres of buildings throbbing with the deep pulse of mighty machines. The number of firms in the United Kingdom engaged on munition contracts is well over 10,000, and the national arsenals have been increased from three to more than 200. Although some 6,000,000 men have been withdrawn from industry for service with the colours, their places have been eagerly filled, and, on munition work alone, nearly 3,000,000 men and women are regularly employed. To meet the needs of this immense army, new towns, in which the housing conditions are upon the most approved lines, and which are equipped with open spaces, canteens, hostels, and public institutions, have been built almost in a night. A new Britain has been called into being, more orderly, more disciplined, more corporate, than the old.

The increase in the output of munitions of all kinds which has resulted from this wholesale revolution has been so stupendous as almost to appear miraculous. Represented merely in statistics, it numbs the mind and baffles the imagination. I may, perhaps, best illustrate at least one aspect of it by saying that whereas, during the Somme offensive of two years ago, Great Britain was issuing every week to her armiesn o the Western Front an amount of ammunition equal to the entire stock available for her land service at the outbreak of war, during the present battles the British Army is firing more than double the volume of shells that was expended in July, 1916. The present rate of output, moreover, allows for such resources to be carried forward into next year as will cause the British battery to mount yet one step higher in weight, intensity, and power.

Or let me put it in another way. During the first five weeks of the German offensive which commenced on March 21st nearly

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1,000 of our guns and between 4,000 and 5,000 of our machine guns were captured or destroyed, while the amount of ammunition lost in dumps amounted to something between a week's and three weeks' total manufacture. None the less, by the end of April all these losses had been more than made good, and there were actually more serviceable guns as a whole and more ammunition available than there were when the battle opened.

In aeroplane construction again the output has been accelerated and increased to a remarkable degree. British factories are now making in a single week more machines than were made during the whole of 1914, in a single month more than were made in the whole of 1915, and in a single quarter more than were made in the whole of 1916. It is obviously impossible for me to give actual figures, but I may say that the output for the whole of this year will be several times what it was during last year.

To what, then, are these results—at once so startling and so encouraging—to be attributed? In the first place, I have no hesitation in saying we owe them to the patriotism, the loyalty, and the generosity of British labour. The British workman is tenacious of his rights, and justly so, for he has won them only after years of fighting. He has hitherto regarded as two of the greatest perils to his industrial status the competition of female labour and the endeavour to breakdown the barriers between skilled and unskilled. Yet, under the stress of the great ordeal, he has placed—as all who were acquainted with him knew he would place—his country's need above the privileges of his craft and has abandoned rights which he had hitherto regarded as the sheet anchor of his freedom. During the past twelve months less than one-fifth of 1 per cent. of the total time worked has been lost by industrial disputes. That is to say, much more than a year's work has been performed for every day that has been lost through strikes, interruptions, and stoppages. Without the whole-hearted co-operation of labour we could neither have raised our armies nor supplied them with the vast stores of material which they require. It is due to this co-operation, primarily, that we have maintained our armies in the field and kept our factories at home working full and overtime.

An Anti-aircraft Machine Gunner at Work in his Well
"Somewhere in France."

Secondly, a tribute is

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due to the women of Britain, who have come forward with such splendid enthusiasm to fill the gaps left by their menfolk. Some nine-tenths of the whole manufacture of shells are due to the labour of women, who, before the War, had never even seen a lathe. There is hardly a task so arduous or so dangerous that they are not ready to perform it. A glance at the Order of the British Empire awards which were recently made will give some idea of the courage and endurance with which they are carrying out their tasks. A high authority remarked some time ago that he would undertake in a very short time to build a battleship from keel to aerial with female labour, and, at the moment, the whole process of making aeroplanes is being performed almost entirely by women. The right to exercise the franchise which has now been extended to the women of Britain was already a long overdue reform, but it is significant of the general recognition which has been accorded to their splendid services in the war that the Bill to enfranchise them was placed upon the statute book with inconsiderable opposition in Parliament and even less outside. The daughters of Britain have spent themselves in her service no less eagerly than her sons, and they may well claim their full share in the rights and opportunities which the future has to offer.

Last, but not least, the work of the manufacturers must not be overlooked. The manufacturers have turned their works to making munitions, transforming their plant and sacrificing their peacetime trade. Their export trade connections, built up over generations of industry, have been thrown away in order to concentrate on war requirements. New economies of man-power and material have had to be accepted at the same time as increased and ever increasing output has had to be provided.

The Prime Minister remarked some time ago that the war would be won or lost in the workshop, and all that has happened since has gone to emphasise the justice of his verdict. As we watch with tense and anxious gaze the ebb and flow of battle on the Western Front, as we contemplate the immensity of the issues which are at stake and the fate which would befall not only ourselves but the whole world should Germany be triumphant, we may well fortify ourselves in remembering that behind the British Army in the field is this vast industrial machine, meeting all its needs, forestalling all its wants, and capable of maintaining and increasing such supplies of munitions and material as must ensure its final triumph.

L. WORTHINGTON EVANS.

The Women of Great Britain

By Viscountess Rhondda

The Women of Great Britain.

NOTHING in the whole conduct of the War has been more striking than the readiness and the ability of the women in nearly all the belligerent nations to render invaluable service to their respective countries, and nothing has been stranger than the slowness of various Governments to realise the vast capacity of the resources upon which they might draw.

Nowhere perhaps have the women been quicker to avail themselves of their opportunities than in Great Britain. When there were as yet only rumours of war the first voluntary workers to be called into action were being mobilised through the prescient agencies of the Red Cross Society, the St. John's Ambulance Association, and the Women's Branch of the Navy League, and, within twenty-four hours of the outbreak of war, the great Territorial Nursing Service was fully mobilised. This involved the calling up of several thousand nurses from their civilian positions, and it remains one of the astonishing achievements of Great Britain's warfare.

The crowds assembled in Whitehall to hear the declaration of war had not begun to disperse before the women, who were afterwards to be identified with several schemes of widespread relief, had met together to discuss what steps should be taken to meet the distress that was immediately anticipated from the sudden dislocation of industry and consequent unemployment.

Next came the first harvest of the patient organising work that had for years been carried on by suffrage and other feminist societies throughout the country, and to the Actresses' Franchise League must be given the credit of the inspiration that brought together active resourceful women from all parties and united opposing factors in a determination to utilise to the utmost women whose special training had qualified them to render special service in a hundred ways, or women of untried capacity who could work under instruction. On August 5th the Women's Emergency Corps was formed and had opened that register which, within a fortnight, con-

Viscountess Rhondda.

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tained the names of ten thousand would-be workers. It was a prophetic register. The scope of the qualifications was unexpected and amazing. People treated as interesting, but not significant, news the statement that so many women were ready to act as chauffeurs, as drivers, as motor cyclists, as army cooks, as camp cookery instructors, as heads of remount departments, as grooms, as organisers of hospital units, as secretaries in technical industries, as food distributors, and as farm hands. The failure to realise the importance of these facts led to an enormous waste of time, of material, and of man-power.

Yet this Women's Emergency Corps had in it the germs of all the future War activities of women, and from it sprang directly the organisations which dealt with food distribution, with the care of thousands of refugees, with canteens, with many of the hospital supply depôts, with toy-making factories, with workrooms for the relief of those thrown out of luxury trades, with hospital units abroad, and, less directly, with the army of munition workers.

It would be impossible to mention individually the societies which have ever since done magnificent work, but special mention should be made of the Women's Legion, which set out to prove how women could serve in new capacities in State departments. It secured the admission of trained women—working under discipline and working admirably—into army camps and hospitals as cooks and waitresses; it presently had its women chauffeurs, wearing khaki and the badges of the A.S.C. One of its chief claims to fame is that it was the direct forerunner of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Force, which, starting in January, 1917, did, and did exceedingly efficiently, perhaps the biggest bit of pioneer work which has been done by women during the War.

Everywhere the women were ready and eager for work. It is difficult now to realise that in 1915 thousands of women, representing scores of activities, marched through London urging that more work should be given to their proved capacity, and that as late as April, 1917, when eighteen thousand women crowded to the Albert Hall for a mass meeting to demonstrate their desire for national service, the gates of the avenues they sought were not yet flung wide open, though even then the women workers in the State clerical departments, the munition works and controlled industries, on the transport systems, and on the land, were to be numbered by millions.

It would be an impertinence to praise the women of Great Britain because, like her men, they have done their duty, but when the time comes for the figures concerning women's work during the War to be given, it will most certainly be found that we have a record of which we need not feel ashamed.

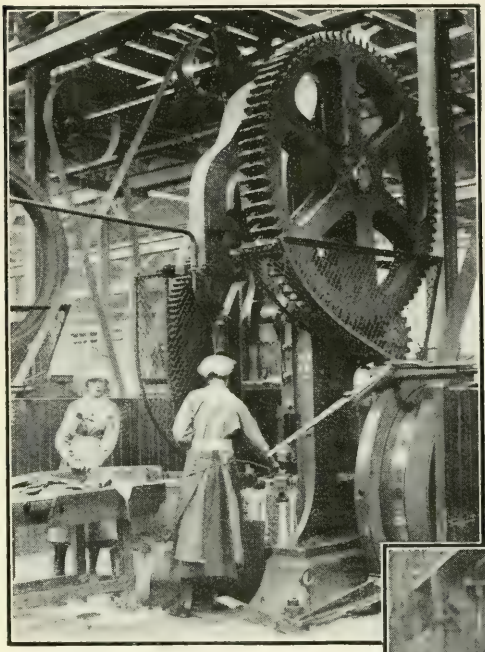
RHONDDA.

Food for the Guns.

Shell Painting. The Rows of Shells seem to stretch away into space. This picture gives a good idea of the size of the Shells.

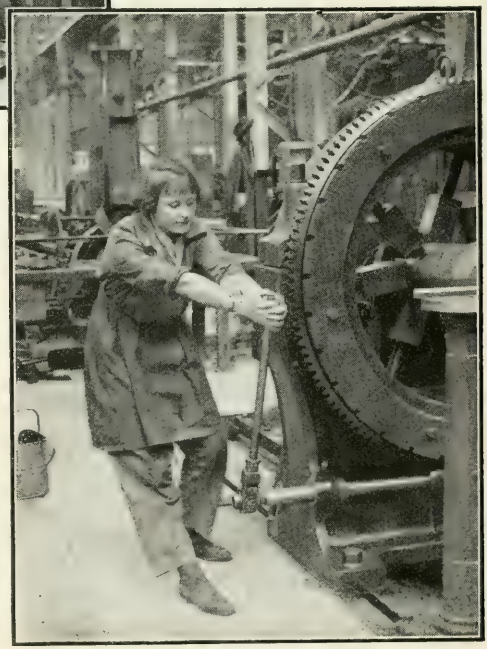
A Stream of Munitionettes on their Way to Work at Woolwich Arsenal.

OVERSEAS



Woolwich in War Time.

Two Girl Case Makers at Work. Women have shown a remarkable aptitude for Mechanics. Woolwich Arsenal has been revolutionised since 1914.



The Machine Minder.

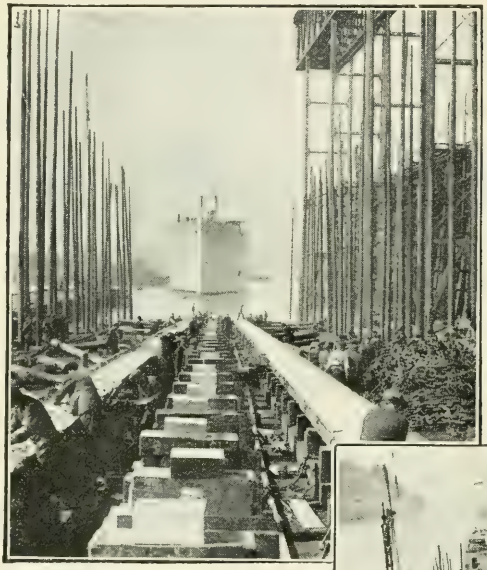
A Naval Gun in the Making at Woolwich Arsenal. There are few processes in the Manufacture of Munitions on which Women are not engaged.

Women on the Land.

Some Modern Eves. A Group of Land Girls at work Hedging and Ditching.

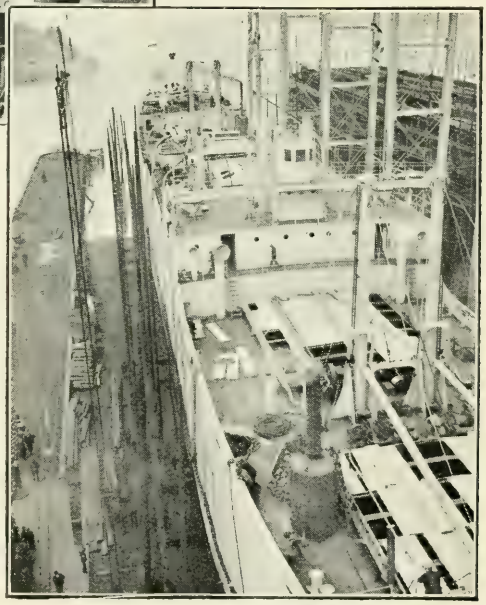
Trailing the Grubber in the Potato Fields. British girls take kindly to animals and an outdoor life.

OVERSEAS



Launch of a Standard Ship.

One of the marvels of the shipping world has been the speeding up of Standardised Vessels of all classes. This ship took the water within five minutes of the pre-arranged time.



A Tramp in Dock.

Bird's-eye View of a Standard Ship just completed, and about to be Launched.

After Four Years—"Fed Up," but full of Fight.

Mr. Bert Thomas' cartoon, "Arf-a-mo a Kaiser," drawn in August, 1914, ranks as one of the most popular pictures of the War. His present picture, which was specially drawn for "Overseas," makes a welcome addition to his War series.

British Agriculture and the War

By Lord Lee of Fareham

British Agriculture and the War.

WHAT has the British farmer done towards winning the War? The reply can be seen immediately by glancing at a diagram in the Food Production Department showing the acreage curve. This curve represents the total acreage under corn (wheat, barley, and oats) for each year from 1870 to 1918. The curve falls almost steadily year by year right down to 1914, 1913 being the lowest year on record with the single exception of 1908. In 1914 there was only a slightly larger acreage than in the former year, but in 1915 there was a considerable increase. This was the first year's harvest since the outbreak of War, and farmers, impressed by the needs of the situation, had naturally increased, so far as they possibly could, their area under corn. But in the next year there was a most decided drop. This was directly due to the shortage of labour, nearly one-third of the male agricultural population in England and Wales having left the land for the Army before the 1916 harvest was gathered.

Many more men have been taken from agriculture since that date, and if one knew nothing of the efforts which have been made to increase production one would expect the downward curve to be continued for the harvest of 1917 and still more so for the harvest of 1918. Fortunately the facts are the reverse. At the beginning of 1917 the Government started its campaign for increasing the home production of food. Time was short; but, even so, it was sufficient to effect a noticeable change in the direction of the curve. An increase of 300,000 acres in the 1917 harvest marks the result of a ten weeks' campaign. But this appears insignificant when contrasted with the line which registers the notable advance in 1918. There the curve goes right up to the 1870 level. With food, as with shells, the one thing that counts is output. The curve indicates how the output from the land of England and Wales has been not only increased but practically revolutionised.

Lord Lee of Fareham, of Chequers.

In forty weeks the nation has recovered what it took forty years to

lose. This has been done partly by organisation, partly by the patriotic and unselfish devotion of a large body of agriculturists who have devoted time and money to the prosecution of this campaign on the Home Front, but the battle has been won chiefly by the farmers themselves. When, in April, 1917, the Prime Minister announced that the Government intended to increase the area under the plough for the 1918 harvest by three million acres in the United Kingdom, this programme was considered by many as merely window-dressing. It was recognised that the Government intended to make an effort to increase production, but the figure of three million acres was regarded as an altogether impossible one. The figure has been reached and surpassed. The task when subdivided, and a proportion allotted to each farmer, lost its appearance of impossibility and became one that the individual, by making a determined effort, could accomplish. In other words, this task of three millions became a task of only so many thousands in each county, so many hundreds in each district, and so many tens or even units of acres on each farm.

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The great increase in food production has been achieved under exceptional difficulties created by shortage of labour. Right up to June, 1917, men were being taken from agriculture for the Army. This process was stopped by the Government in the summer of last year, but the new military situation created by the German offensive in March last made it imperative for the War Cabinet to demand a further contribution from agriculture for the military forces. Nearly 30,000 men have accordingly been taken from the land in the last few weeks. It is true that the Government has provided some 60,000 soldiers of low medical category, 16,000 prisoners of war, and 2,000 released aliens to undertake work on the land, but the majority of these men did not become available until the beginning of the present year, and throughout the important ploughing months of last autumn farmers were extremely short of labour.

Since the outbreak of War there has been a steady flow of skilled men from the farms to the Army, and although to some extent, as above stated, their places have recently been taken by soldiers and prisoners of war, there are on the farms of England and Wales to-day 200,000 fewer males than there were in 1914. But it is not chiefly in numbers that agricultural labour is short ; it is in skill. Although every effort was made to obtain skilled men from the Army, only a negligible number of the soldiers supplied had had previous experience of agriculture. This is not surprising, seeing that the agricultural labourer makes the finest fighting material that can be found, and once he is in the Army he is required for the front line.

In agriculture, as in so many other branches of war work, women have rendered splendid help. Women have realised how essen-

British Agriculture and the War.

tial it has been to increase the home production of food, and they have answered the appeal to take up farm work in a manner which has rendered the nation permanently indebted to them. Before the War some 90,000 women were employed on the land in this country. That number has now been increased to nearly 300,000.

The labour position may, therefore, be summed up in a few words. Skilled labour has had to be taken from the land to a degree which, at any other time, would have made the carrying on of farm work impossible. It has been partially replaced by unskilled women and soldiers, and by a limited number of skilled prisoners of war. Yet, in spite of this unequal exchange, the farmers by their own exertions have increased production in this country, while all other belligerent countries have found it impossible since the outbreak of War to maintain their agricultural production.

What the actual quantity of foodstuffs produced will amount to this year must depend, as always, on the weather which is experienced between now and the end of the harvest. In general it may be assumed that *production* depends on weather conditions, *acreage* on human effort. For this reason, and in order that the efforts made by British agriculturists may be assessed, this article may fittingly close with a few figures showing the acreages sown with the principal crops.

The tillage area of England and Wales in 1918 is 2,500,000 acres more than in 1916. Wheat showed an increase of 752,000 acres up to the end of April, when a compulsory return was taken. The area under this crop at that date was 2,665,000 acres, the highest on record since 1882. At the same date oats showed an acreage of 2,820,000 acres, being the highest on record by 23 per cent., while the area under potatoes was 645,000, being no less than 217,000 acres above the 1916 area and the highest on record by 27 per cent. The total acreage under corn and potatoes at the date of the census was 8,302,000 acres, being 2,142,000 acres over the 1916 area, which, converted into tonnage, should represent a net saving in shipping of 1,500,000 tons in the coming year. This, then, is the answer to the question with which this article opened.

A typical land girl in the haymaking season.

Feeding an Island People

By the Right Hon. J. R. Clynes, M.P., Food Controller

Feeding an Island People.

THERE are people who maintain, and perhaps truly, that with the conquest of the air Great Britain has ceased to be an island, but so far as food is concerned, at any rate, it is still isolated by the sundering sea, and from across the waters its people must be fed. It may be the island could produce all or nearly all the food its inhabitants require, but that is a very long way from being the case as yet, and the problem the Ministry of Food was called upon to solve was the victualling of what the Kaiser intended should be a besieged city containing forty-two millions of people—obliged to import at least sixty-five per cent. of its essential foods. Very few people have any adequate notion of how tremendous the problem was or how great was the danger which must have followed upon an erroneous solution.

To understand the situation as it existed before the Ministry of Food brought it under control, it is necessary to realise that the U-boat menace, serious as it was at one time, was but one factor in it. The calls upon British tonnage were so enormous that, altogether outside the losses caused by submarine warfare, the strain was bound to be unprecedented, while the demands made by the Army abroad and by our Allies increased the tension every day. The only way in which tonnage could be economised was by drawing supplies from the nearest points, and this meant that the immense reservoirs of Australia, and, to some extent, of South Africa as well, were closed to us for the time being, so that nearly everything had to be drawn from North America. In the American market the Allies were buying against one another, and in Great Britain itself prices were soaring to a point which visibly threatened the poorer classes with actual famine.

That was one aspect of the problem, but there were also others. In August, 1917, the American Food Controller issued an official estimate that the harvest of the European Allies would be at least five hundred million bushels short, that they had been obliged to kill thirty-three millions of their stock cattle for food, and that those of them who were sugar producers would be unable to provide more than a third of their usual quantity. Shortage of feeding stuffs made it impossible to maintain the live stock in Great Britain at anything like the pre-war figure, hardly any meat could be imported for civilian consumption, and so serious was the position that, at one time, there was not more than nine weeks' supply of wheat and flour in the whole country. The Germans rejoiced because they felt confident that Great Britain would grow restive under rationing.

Feeding an Island People.

They were deeply mistaken. There was nothing to be gained from the example of Germany, where five Food Controllers have followed one another in quick succession without one of them being able to solve the difficulty of equal distribution, and the only certainty was that the British people would never submit to the scandalous inequalities and unblushing corruption which the more docile Germans bore with what patience they could. The Ministry of Food was called upon to secure an adequate supply of imported food at moderate prices, to keep down the cost of home-grown food without lessening the amount produced, and to arrange the equal distribution of whatever food there was.

The help that was received from Mr. Hoover, the American Food Administrator, and from Mr. Thompson, the Canadian Food Controller, can never receive sufficient praise, and the response made by the people of the American continent to the appeal to send to Europe every sack of wheat not vitally needed by themselves and to be satisfied with maize as a substitute is one of the finest incidents of the war. But even that help would have been ineffective if it had not been met by intelligent effort on this side of the Atlantic. The first thing to be done was to put an end to the competition of the Allies in the American market, and for that purpose were created the Inter-Ally Council on War Purchase and Finance in Europe and the Division of Co-ordination of Purchase in the United States. The one enabled Great Britain, France, and Italy to present their demands in co-ordination instead of in competition, and the other was charged with the duty of fixing each month "fair and just" prices and, through a Packers' Committee, to allocate the available supplies. The practical result, put briefly, is that all purchases are made by a single body in London and all sales by a single body in New York.

The problem presented by home-grown supplies was, if possible, even more complicated. The British people do not, as do more primitive races, gather their food themselves from the soil. They buy it in shops, and of these there are five thousand co-operative, ten thousand multiple, fifteen thousand ordinary grocers', and seventy thousand small general shops to supply the population. To control prices in a business of whose vastness and complexity these figures will give some dim idea required the most careful and prolonged inquiries, involving reports from every district and the advice of experts in the production and sale of each individual commodity. Profiteering had to be stopped, but profits had to be maintained, otherwise some link in the great chain would infallibly have been broken and the people would have suffered. The work done in this direction of fixing prices by the Costings Department will perhaps never be thoroughly appreciated, but it should be enough to say that the profits of every producer, manufacturer, and

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dealer were carefully investigated, and that the basis was in this way provided for fixing prices on an equitable scale. Wheat alone had to be dealt with by a Government subvention to the producers, and few will deny that the forty millions sterling contributed under this head was well and wisely expended. For food in general the whole country was divided into sixteen divisions, in each of which the Local Authorities, as they are called, appointed local food control committees, and upon all these committees sit representatives of labour, of women, and of the Co-operative movement. In nothing was Lord Rhondda's statesmanship more conspicuously shown than in this enlistment of local effort to cope with a great national emergency.

There remained the problem of equal distribution, and long before rationing was made general and compulsory this was attacked upon its most urgent side, namely, that of the provision of meat. A most elaborate organisation or rather a whole series of organisations were created to deal with the various channels through which and the various forms in which the meat could reach the public. The gist of the whole lay in the arrangements by which the farmer gained nothing whether he sent his meat dead or alive from Perth to Penzance or sold it to his next-door neighbour, and by which the consumer paid exactly the same price for what he received no matter whence it had come. To secure at once economy and equal distribution of the essential foodstuffs in general, a scheme of universal rationing for such as were short was obviously necessary, and the scheme which has actually been carried out was very wisely based on the experience gained from those localities in which voluntary rationing had already been in operation. It has, in my opinion, been a marvellous success.

The privations, such as they are, which the scheme entails have called forth the best spirit and qualities of the British folk. The extraordinary cheerfulness with which they have been borne is sufficient proof that, even if they were much more stringent than at present, they would be calmly faced by a nation resolved "to see it through." Germany can win no comfort from the food problems of "our island home." Her submarines have lost the prize they sought. J. R. CLYNES.

Rt. Hon. J. R. Clynes.

Influence of Sea Power on the War

What the Allies Owe to the British Navy

By John Leyland

The Influence of Sea Power on the War.

THE Navy works in the twilight. That is the nature of its service. Sometimes it is revealed, as by a search-light, fighting a battle at the Dogger Bank, the Falkland Isles, or the Jutland Bank. There are flashes in the twilight also, as when the *Swift* and *Broke* and the *Strongbow* and *Mary Rose* encountered the enemy in sharp conflict, and when Zeebrugge and Ostend were attacked and blocked. But beyond this very little is ever heard of the Navy. Sea power is the most potent but the least observed influence in the war. It is behind every Allied Army fighting in any part of the world. Its work is ceaseless. Soldiers know that secure communications are vital to success, and that without them there can be nothing but disaster. The Navy has given that security by establishing and maintaining command of the sea. It has guarded transport. It has safeguarded the British Isles and all British possessions, as well as all oversea possessions of the Allies, from invasion. It has protected the flank and rear of all the Armies fighting in France. It has completely suppressed the enemy's oversea commerce, and it forbade him to embark a single man for the help of his distant colonies. It has given security of transport to vast Armies in many theatres of war, to incalculable volumes of supplies, and to endless streams of commodities, which are the very life-blood of the Allied Armies and peoples.

This is the great work of the Navy in the War. Sea power is exerted by the Grand Fleet in its northern anchorages and its sweepings of the North Sea, influencing the naval situation to the very ends of the earth. The lesser, but not less vital, agencies are numberless flotillas of light cruisers, destroyers, submarines, trawlers, auxiliary patrolling vessels, and other craft. The work goes on from one year-end to another, day and night, without rest or pause, and in all kinds of weather. The country placed its whole Fleet in the scale, but the Fleet of August, 1914, is not the Fleet of to-day. We subjected our industries, our wealth, and our commerce to the war. No Englishman had ever anticipated, or could have foreseen, that full two-thirds of our mercantile marine would be taken over for the auxiliary services of the Fleet and the transport of Armies and Army supplies, and that the whole of the mercantile marine would come under naval direction and be used in an enormous volume for these and kindred services.

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The Influence of Sea Power on the War.

Since the Jutland battle, the German Fleet has never ventured to contest our supremacy at sea. This is the index of the supreme influence of British sea power. The stakes in the game are very high. A naval disaster to Great Britain would change the face of the war, but the Germans have never dared the throw. The mastery is assured. The influence of sea power is supreme. The recourse of the enemy to submarine attack is demonstration of our complete command of the sea. There should be no surprise at the virulence of the attack, nor at any enemy raids, hasty bombardments, or "scraps" at sea. The situation is what it has been in all previous wars. Be it remembered that even ten years after Trafalgar enemy single ships and light squadrons were able to issue in secret, to evade our watch, and to inflict as much damage as they could. But what it is important to observe is that the enemy submarine attack in this war has not been permitted to interfere with the transport of men, ammunition, vehicles, or materials in any degree whatsoever.

How security is given may be partially illustrated by what takes place in the North Sea, an area of 140,000 square nautical miles, which is swept day and night, north to south and east to west, by the British Navy. During a recent month, the mileage steamed by British battleships, cruisers, and destroyers in home waters amounted to 1,000,000 ship-miles, and in addition there was the ceaseless patrol of the auxiliary forces, which, in the same month and in the same waters, steamed well over 6,000,000 ship-miles. Some of these forces have done wonderful work in observing and boarding vessels and generally regulating traffic. At the Nore and Sheerness flotillas have kept guard over shipping entering and clearing from the Thames, protecting an immense volume of trade. In a single month the naval aircraft patrol round the British Isles has exceeded five times the circumference of the globe. Aircraft forces now attached to the Navy are continually at work round all the coasts and out at sea, always looking out for hostile movements, and playing a large part in the spotting of submarines, which is the preliminary to the destruction of many of them.

The operations of the Armies in Mesopotamia, Palestine, and

Commodore Tyrwhitt's Lucky Black Cat. The cat lives in his flagship and has been in several actions.

The Influence of Sea Power on the War.

Syria, at Salonika, in Egypt, and elsewhere, depend upon the safeguarding influence of sea power, as directly as do those of the Armies operating in France. There are longer lines of communication for the bringing of troops and supplies; some 10,000 sea miles from Australia and New Zealand, 6,000 from India, and 2,000 from Canada and the United States. Under naval guard, during a period of three and a half years from the beginning of the embarkation of the Armies, 17,000,000 persons were moved, including 2,000,000 sick and wounded, 2,000,000 animals, 4,000 vehicles of all kinds, and 37,000,000 tons of stores.

It is not only in transporting Armies that the Navy has exerted its influence. Under its guard the food and raw material we require have come in. Any scarcity which may exist in the country is due mainly to the absorption of mercantile shipping in the work of the Navy and of military transport. The German submarine accentuated the situation, but did not cause it, and the submarine is being fought more successfully every day.

The Navy has exerted an enormous influence for the advantage of our Allies. Vast quantities of guns, ammunition, Army stores of every kind, railway engines, trucks, and track have reached France. When the Russian Armies were fighting valiantly, prodigious quantities were sent to the Armies mainly through Murmansk and Archangel. The biggest guns, smaller guns, ammunition, armed motor cars, aeroplanes, stores, clothing, boots by the million, and other requirements were sent into the country, and the Arctic squadron controlled the icy coasts, and kept guard during the remarkable activities of the German submarines. It was difficult work, for in these regions the compass is erratic owing to the enormous deposits of iron ore, and on one occasion three ships were on shore at the same time, one of them a big munition ship, with a cargo worth a round million pounds, but they were all salved by the crews and appliances of the British Navy.

In the Mediterranean the Navy has played a great part, in association with the friendly Navies of France, Italy, and Japan, latterly under the high command of the chiefs of the French and Italian Navies. The Italian coasts are secure, except against raiders, and the Italian possessions in Africa are in no danger of attack. Very large quantities of material have been supplied to Italy under naval guard, including 910,000 tons of coal for the Italian Government, and 3,250,000 tons in requisitioned steamers, all within a period of three and a half years.

Sea power has exerted its influence in the war on a great scale and with more potent effect than in any war of former times. It is the shaft of the spear-head of every Army, and the protector of every kind of supply that traverses the sea. The American Army is coming, and is doing so by virtue of sea power.

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Man-power—Then and Now

By Ian Hay

[The author of "The First Hundred Thousand" needs no introduction to the readers of "Overseas." Many of our Members in North America have doubtless had the privilege of listening to Major Ian Hay Beith's delightful War lectures.—Editor.]

Man-power—Then and Now.

WHEN I survey the complicated and wonderful machinery which collects, trains, and despatches soldiers to the various fronts to-day, my mind goes back irresistibly to the days when we had no machinery at all—nothing but men, in fact.

They poured in in thousands in answer to Lord Kitchener's call; but machinery for housing them, feeding them, training them, there was none. The ordinary channels of enlistment were blocked in the first days of the war, and thereafter the task of enrolling recruits devolved very largely upon enthusiastic but inexperienced public bodies, such as local political clubs. These would enlist a batch of men and despatch them to some regimental headquarters, where they were liable to arrive at any hour of the day or night (but for choice three o'clock in the morning), when they would announce in chorus (the original members of Kitchener's Army nearly always spoke in chorus) that "they had come to join the Army."

Their first proceeding on arrival was to ask for something to eat, and their second to demand pay. The correct retort to this was to ask for their attestation papers. Of course, they never had any. They had either treated those documents, following a now historic example, as "scraps of paper," and torn them up, or else the society which enlisted them had adopted the expedient of accumulating some fifty or a hundred attestation papers into a bundle with a view to posting the same to regimental headquarters at some convenient time. The trouble was that until these papers were forthcoming the men could not be regarded as soldiers, or receive either pay, accommodation, or rations; and as they had, to a man, invariably

Major Ian Hay Beith, the well-known soldier author.

Man-power —Then and Now.

marked their entry into the service of the State by spending their last penny on one final celebration, the situation was sometimes a little difficult. However, a meal was usually provided from somewhere, and paid for, as a rule, by the officers, while barns and stables were requisitioned as sleeping places.

In due course the attestation papers arrived, and we embarked upon the task of finding an owner for each paper. That may sound simple, but where raw recruits are concerned nothing is simple. We were further handicapped by the fact that the regiment with which I was connected was a Scottish regiment. Scotland has the reputation—no doubt unmerited—of being an economical country. In nothing is Scotland so economical as in her list of tribal names ; and the task of sorting out the numerous Campbells and Mackenzies and Macdonalds and allotting to each his own attestation paper in such a manner that an unmarried man was not saddled wih the support of a wife and ten children, or, worse still, a married man with a large family permitted to draw the undocked pay of a bachelor without encumbrances, reduced our orderly room staff to a state of nervous collapse.

We had all types to handle. We were an army of experts at everything except soldiering. However, the situation had its advantages. There was never the slightest difficulty of finding an expert in the rank and file prepared to deal with any emergency. If there was an escape of gas in the officers' mess (literal, not figurative) a gasfitter was always forthcoming from the ranks to deal with it. We had carpenters and conjurers, scene-shifters and land surveyors, It was never safe to pose to one's platoon as an authority on anything at all, for fear some expert should uplift his voice in the rear rank and set you right. And I may add that in Kitchener's Army no considerations of military etiquette ever prevented him from doing so.

Then came preliminary training. Here we found ourselves up against trades unionism of the most deep-seated description. If a man felt disinclined to go upon parade, he simply did not go ; and he felt both surprised and hurt if on his return from a voluntary holiday he found himself arrested as a deserter. His invariable suggestion was that he should lose a day's pay (a shilling) "and say no more about it." But, taking them all round, they were a wonderful lot. Our Army to-day is better organised and better trained, and possibly more effective, but the veterans of Kitchener's Army were like no other Army that ever existed ; they had a piquancy all their own. Later I saw those same men—miners, farmers, shepherds, clerks, riveters, newsboys—with less than a year's training behind them, going forward, many of them to their death, in the opening stages of the battle of Loos, as steadily as the most seasoned veterans. If only the machine had existed, as well as the men, in the early days of the war, what might not have been accomplished ?

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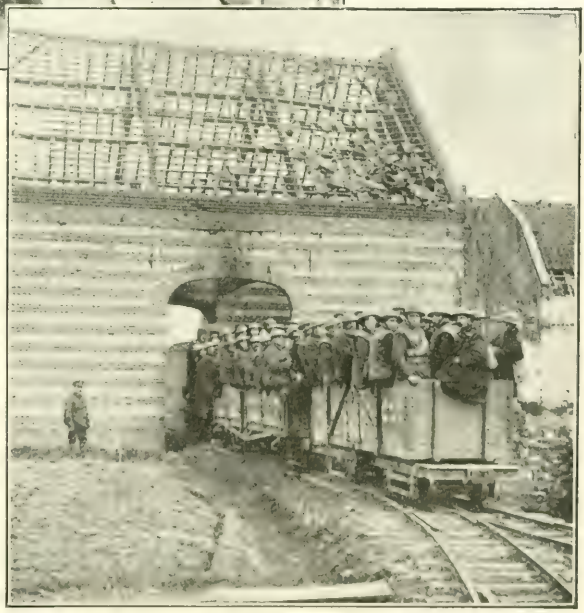
On the Way to Blighty.

A familiar Railway Scene, which has fresh significance to the Soldier on fourteen days leave.



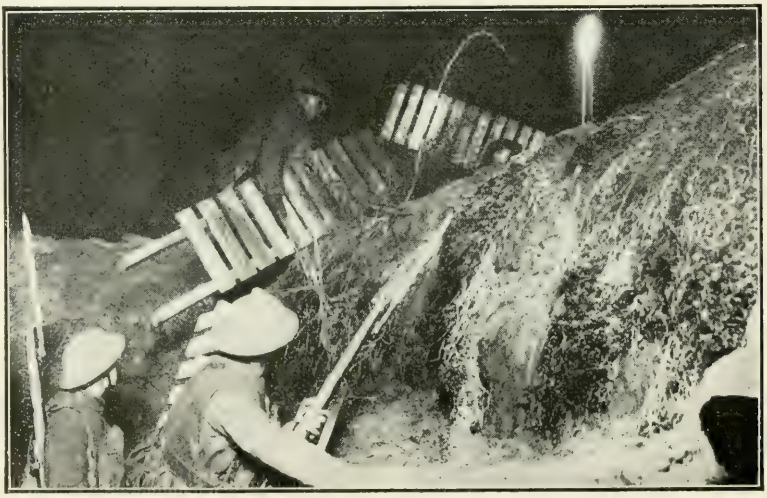
Short Cuts.

Reinforcements being brought to the Front Line pass through a Novel Tunnel.

"Somewhere in France."

An Interval between a Strafe. A Row of Smiling Faces appearing from a Gun Pit.

A Nap in the Dug-out Bunks.



A Working Party carrying Duck-boards over a Support Line Trench at Night.

After Four Years of War: The British Army To-Day

By Colonel A. M. Murray, C.B.

After Four Years of War: The British Army To-Day.

HOW do we stand after four years of War? This is the question which is on everyone's lips, and which the writer of this article has been asked to answer in as few words as possible. There is no room for statistics of strength, or for tactical details. Salient strategical facts will only be stated, and the reader left free to draw his conclusions from them.

The first fact to grasp is that this is a world-wide War, which arose from a small beginning, and developed into a contest for world dominion. When Germany embarked on War, her initial aim was hegemony in Europe, her ultimate object, dominion in the East. It was in this direction that possibilities of territorial expansion seemed most favourable. To achieve her first purpose it was necessary to crush France and subjugate Russia. The unexpected intervention of Great Britain forced her hands before they were ready. Thwarted in their aims, in the fury of their wrath, the rulers of Germany resorted to illicit warfare in order to strike at Britain's trade, which is the bedrock of her Imperial power. Neutral countries were forbidden to trade with Great Britain and her Allies under the penalty of seeing their ships sunk by submarines. This brought America into the struggle, her practically unlimited reserve of man power being placed at the disposal of the Allied Powers. With her powerful military organisation Germany will struggle on for a while, but with dwindling force, which will be ultimately shattered under the always increasing belligerent pressure of the Allied Powers.

Although our pre-War Army was small, and so small as to call forth the German Emperor's sneer when he spoke of it as "Contemptible," a great deal of valuable spade work was accomplished during the years which followed the South African war, and which has borne excellent fruit in the present struggle. A first beginning was made by the creation of the Committee of Imperial Defence, which was founded by Mr. Balfour in 1904, and became the recognised authority for laying down the principles which should govern our war policy. The basic principle of that policy was sea supremacy. Given that, and everything else followed. So long as we kept open our communications with our Overseas Dominions the security of the Empire was assured. That basic principle was accepted by the country, and it was with that principle always in mind that our pre-War organisation was built up. What was that organisation? Briefly sketched it was this. First of all there was

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a fully equipped Expeditionary Force ready for immediate transportation to the selected theatre of war to act as an advanced guard for the Armies which were to be raised at home and in the Dominions under cover of the protecting Fleet. How that force, small in numbers but indomitable in spirit, fulfilled its *rôle* by saving the left wing of the French Army from being rolled up in August, 1914, was the subject of grateful testimony by Marshal Joffre at the time. Behind this Expeditionary Force was the Territorial Force, which was capable of unlimited expansion, and the defence force of the Dominions also capable of expansion to such limits as their population permitted. Finally a reserve of officers was created composed of retired army officers, and young men, who passed through the officers' training corps, which were formed at the public schools and universities. This was the work of Lord Haldane and his General Staff, to whose co-operative efforts we owe the beginning of that mighty army of men which reached the zenith of its power in the fourth year of War, and is being used with our Allies to destroy the military power of Germany.

The immensity of the area of operations is a fact which is not always realised. We are sometimes inclined to keep our eyes fixed on the Western Front without looking beyond it. A school of strategists, designated by the name of "Westerners," has sprung up during the course of the War, and they have no eyes to see beyond the Somme, the Scheldt and the Lys. Germany has herself declared that the fate of the War will be decided on the battlefields of North-Western France. Declarations of this kind have no meaning when we consider the extent of the area of conflict, and the unlimited strategical possibilities in front of the Allies. Owing to her antecedent preparations for War, and the initial advantage which her armies have all along possessed of operating on interior lines with unified forces fighting under a single command, Germany has succeeded in knocking out Russia and threatening France with the same fate ; but looking at the worst instead of the best side of the possible future, and assuming what is actually unthinkable, the hypothetical subjugation of France, the War, far from being ended, would only begin. Now, as always, the ultimate issue will depend on the factor of Sea power, which can never fail to have a determining influence on the world's history. On sea Great Britain's supremacy is incontestable, and the co-operation of the American Navy with hers gives added strength to her maritime power, which was already sufficient for all the purposes of her belligerent aims. Our Navy has done its work. Britannia still rules the waves. The Germans have fought one sea battle, but the results were not such as to encourage them to risk another. Our shores are safe from invasion. After four years of war not an inch of British territory in any part of the world is in the enemy's hands. On the

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other side the spectacle is in striking contrast with that described above. Germany has lost all her overseas trade, and all her Colonial possessions. Our blockade of her shores has cut her off from intercourse with the outside world. The submarine menace has proved to be a broken reed. Four years ago it was the firm conviction of every German man, woman and child that the world could only continue to exist under German domination. It is not so now. Shadows of coming defeat have taken the place of dreams of conquest. Taught by failure the Germans have begun to realise that others besides themselves have a right to a place under the sun.

It is the fixed intention of Great Britain and America to stand side by side with France and Belgium until the German invaders have been driven back to their Rhine frontier, and hence the concentration of Allied troops in Northern France and Flanders. Whatever form the enemy's offensive may take, whether force or peace overtures are used for the purpose, the German Government must understand that the Allies are not out to bargain, but to accomplish the purpose for which they took up arms. There is no room for compromise or even for negotiation, until the force which has disturbed the peace of Europe has been destroyed beyond the hope of recovery. An armistice is out of the question till the invaded territory has been completely evacuated, and the sooner the Germans understand this the better for the prospects of a peace settlement. While the task of the Allied Armies in the Western theatre of War is clearly defined, it must not be forgotten that there are other fronts, from which the Central Powers and their Allies may be attacked besides the one which German strategy has dictated. Thanks to our early efforts in the war we have secured two excellent "jumping off" *points d'appui*, one at Baghdad, the other at Jerusalem, with a third at Salonika, any of which may presently become bases for offensive operations. Then there is Vladivostock, the terminus of the Northern railway to the Pacific, which is in the friendly hands of a Czecho-Slovak force commanded by an experienced Russian General. One thing is certain. The Allies have not yet mobilised

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig.

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the whole of their belligerent strength in the East. In India, Great Britain has a reservoir of strength which has only been partially tapped. India had done much for the Empire, but not all that she can and will do in the near future. It is to be hoped that, as a reward for their efforts during the past four years, the Indian people will be admitted, not hurriedly but progressively, to the privileges of self-governing British citizens, including the right hitherto denied to the upper classes of holding the King's Commission in the Army.

Impatience is sometimes expressed because, after four years of fighting, peace seems to be no nearer than it was when the War began. The criticism is misplaced, because no one knows when the German bubble will burst, and peace follow the catastrophe. Considering the number and extent of the various theatres of War the wonder is not that we have done so little in four years, but so much. To have conquered more than a million square miles of German colonial territory is a testimony to the strength of our power and the wisdom of our strategy. Victory in Europe is only a question of time. It is big battalions which count, and the Allies are mounting them up. The struggle may be only half over, but we have come through the worst of it. Co-operation between our Allies and ourselves has taken an organised shape. There is only one Army now on the Western Front instead of four. Divided direction has been replaced by unified command. Lessons have been learnt and mistakes corrected. We cannot alter geographical conditions, which are wholly favourable to the enemy, but we can adapt our strategy to circumstances, and profit by the experience of the past.

The British Empire is giving the same lead to the world to-day as England gave to Europe in the Napoleonic wars. Never was the Empire more united than it is at the present moment. As we have sown so we are reaping. Decentralisation is the keynote to our Imperial success. Direction above remains as it should do, but there is a difference between direction and dictation. The strength of the British Empire lies in the political freedom enjoyed by all its self-governing Dominions, and it is this sense of freedom which has brought us all together in this crisis of our Imperial history. We shall come out of this struggle chastened by trial, but strengthened by effort. Never did we embark on a war with cleaner hands and a clearer conscience. We are fighting for all that it is worth living for, for right against might, for justice against tyranny, for democratic liberty against autocratic rule. More than this, we are fighting, not for ourselves, who are strong, but for others who are weak, and hereafter it will be written over the graves of those who have fallen that they saved others but themselves they would not save.

"Blighty"

By Lieut. A. A. Milne

[*As "A.A.M." in "Punch" Mr. Milne is doubtless a friend of many of the readers of "Overseas."—Editor.*]

"Blighty."

I ALWAYS forget the derivation of "Blighty," although I have had it explained to me many times. But it is an elusive word anyhow. For we can never get to Blighty. Other people, the lucky ones, may be there; we speak of them, when we can bear to speak of them, with envy; but we shall never be there ourselves. Leave or a friendly bullet may start us on our way to Blighty, but it will not put us down. For just as "there" becomes "here" when you have reached it, so "Blighty" is no longer "Blighty" when you have stepped off the boat; it is Home.

The British soldier knows this, which is why he puts "Blighty" on his envelopes when he is writing to his sweetheart. Had he been in France in peace-time, he would have put "Angleterre." Of course there is no such place as Angleterre really, but in certain parts of the world it was customary to call England so, when you were away from it. There was in ancient days an imaginary country of that name whose inhabitants lived on the flesh of a wild animal called the Rosbif and urged each other on in the chase with cries of "Goddam"! But no traveller ever set foot upon it. However, the name stuck, and (as I say) when we wrote home from Paris we put "Angleterre" on the envelope. Now we put "Blighty"; it is the same idea.

For Blighty is an imaginary country too. It can be seen when you are standing-to at dawn, or when, knee-deep in mud, you are carrying boxes of bombs up a never-resting communication trench, but not very clearly then. When you are waiting to go over the top, you cannot see it at all. Wife or mother, yes; but not Blighty. It is in the between-whiles that you can see Blighty most distinctly; the time between Hells; when you have come out of one push and before you go into the next. Then, if the battalion is at rest, or in a quiet part of the line,

En route for "Blighty." Changing French money into English.

"Blighty." and you have an afternoon to yourself, you will see the promised land: Blighty, to which all good soldiers go, when they have been suitably wounded or have got leave.

To each one the vision is different, but the dream-countries have this in common. There are no trenches there, nor any guns. Yet these negative qualities in themselves do not make Blighty, else any wound would be a "blighty-one" which sent you down to the Base; whereas it is well-known that a "blighty-one" is only for the specially favoured. It must be not so bad as to delay your return to Blighty, nor so light as to make it not worth while to send you there, nor again, if you get to Blighty, so painful as to prevent you enjoying that delicious country properly.

There are no other soldiers in Blighty; only the stay-at-homes and ourselves. Life there is the life we knew before there was a war, a life we did not know to have been so lovely. Mean streets in a slum city, tumble-down cottages in a sleeping village; it may appear no more than this to the stay-at-home, as perhaps once to us; but it is what makes Blighty beautiful when seen from the other side. For that is where we lived all those years ago. To be back there for a little while means that for a little while there is no war. And because there are no other soldiers in Blighty, we shall be made much of by the stay-at-homes. For are we not, alone, unaided, winning this war for them?

A land in which we can be happy. It is because we can never be quite happy that we shall never get to Blighty. It must remain always a beautiful dream. I think we realize this first as we step on board the boat which is to take us there. The vision fades as we near the promised land. We walk, or are carried, down the gangway; we are at home at last—but it is not Blighty. We know the truth then. For the moment that our foot touches England we are no longer "going back to Blighty"; we have begun to return to the trenches. Then we know that Blighty is only a dream, for there are no trenches in Blighty.

But to the dream-Blighty we shall come back—as soon as we are out there again. Do not think that our days at home have been miserable. Perhaps it was not quite as we expected. Apparently they are busy about the war in England, too; we had hoped to find the old place more of a backwater. And Cousin Tom had been called up at last; we used to have jolly old times with him. But all the others were there, hanging upon everything that we said. And Uncle John seemed to think we were winning all right. . . .

We are in a quiet part of the line and for the moment there is nothing to do. Why not write a letter, just to let them know that we got back safely?

So we write—and put "Blighty" on the envelope.

A. A. M.

Britain's Fight in the Air

The Work of the R.A.F.

Britain's Fight in the Air.

EVEN if there were no such things as a paper shortage, an attempt to review the whole work and progress of the Royal Air Force in a brief message intended for publication would be impracticable.

The R.A.F., besides being a fighting service, embraces an immense industry, or, to be accurate, an immense group of industries, which include scores of different trades, handicrafts, highly specialised callings and professions.

Brawny lumbermen are swinging axes, and delicate girls are plying needles, for the R.A.F. In studies and laboratories learned scientists are burning midnight oil ; in hundreds of factories thousands of skilled workers of all kinds are toiling the week round, by day and night, at highest pressure, amid the whirr and clangour of machinery ; away out in the midst of wild moorlands armies of builders, carpenters, navvies, painters, plumbers, engineers, and other workers labour in hot haste ; from the Orkneys to the Lizard (not to mention other parts of the British Empire) and from the Channel to Switzerland (not to mention half a dozen other war zones) thousands of motor lorries, tenders, and cars are speeding night and day as fast as their engines will drive them—all to further the business of the R.A.F., and to help to keep British aircraft in the air, and enemy aircraft out of it, over fronts as widely separate as Flanders and East Africa, as Italy and Mesopotamia.

It is hardly possible fully to appreciate the immense scope of the work of the R.A.F. without some understanding of what is required to keep our fighting fleets in the air.

In *personnel* the strength of the force has been multiplied fully two hundred times. It now produces every few days more than its entire material resources at one stage of the War. It now has very many single branches, each accomplishing more every day than the whole organisation could previously have accomplished in a month. There are to-day whole wide fields of R.A.F. combatant activity which had practically no existence a year ago, and had never been thought of when the battle of the Somme began. As regards the effect of all this amazing growth upon the enemy, it is safe to say that now, in a single week, British airmen frequently destroy a greater aggregate of aircraft, air *personnel*, and accessories than all that Britain possessed at one stage of the War.

In this almost magical expansion of Britain's aerial strength and resources we have a microcosm of her whole mighty war effort, perhaps the most remarkable concentration of human energy that the world had seen up to the beginning of this year. It is to be remembered that, as regards the air, the beginning of the War found the British even farther behind their enemies than

Britain's Fight in the Air.

in any other kind of preparedness for war. And yet, to-day, Britain stands easily ahead of all other nations in the air ; it is estimated that her airmen bring down at least three enemy machines for every one of ours brought down by the enemy ; and the German aviator pays the R.A.F. pilot the profound tribute of refusing to give him combat in the air except with a three or four to one numerical superiority.

In this, as in every other part of the conduct of the War, the Mother-country has received a splendid measure of assistance from the partner States of the Empire, and our home-bred pilots are emphatic and most cordial in their praise of their Canadian, Australian, and South African brother-airmen.

The people of Britain have been quick to realise that airmen are helpless without abundant supplies of the best that science and industry can produce in the way of flying machines; that the machines are of no avail without abundant supplies of all their hundreds of separate parts for renewals and repairs; that pilots and machines together can accomplish little without an ever-increasing supply of aerodromes—an aerodrome is almost as complex as a town ; and that increased production of, for example, fighting aeroplanes, must necessarily be accompanied by a corresponding expansion in the matter of training machines and instructional facilities.

The interdependence of all the manifold products and activities which go to the making and maintenance of an aerial fleet in being has been very fairly grasped by all the workers concerned, with the result that a standard of co-operation never before equalled has been attained. So throughout the ranks of the Royal Air Force, combatant and administrative, technical and executive, all grades have seen the dependence of all upon each and each upon all, and recognise the singleness of Britain's whole purpose in the War.

We may safely accept an enemy expert's verdict, and take some comfort in the tribute of General von Bulow when he wrote that—

"In the Somme battle, wherever the enemy gained the upper hand, it was chiefly due to the perfected application of technical means. . . . It was also due to the exemplary manner in which infantry, artillery, and aeroplanes co-operated."

From a military leader of the most military nation in the world, referring to the nation of the "contemptible little army," it was no small tribute.

Itself the youngest of all great services, the Royal Air Force is the offspring of the union and fusion of two services which in a few short years had won fame in the world ; and if the R.A.F. has had no time to inherit traditions, it is fair to say that it has created them, and that they are none the less bright for having been evolved from out the maelstrom of the greatest War in the world's history.

(Continued from p. 48, before Special Supplement.)

News from Head-quarters.

the membership. Part of the funds have gone to provide an Up-country Siam Red Cross Ambulance.

SHANGHAI, CHINA.—Shanghai has just forwarded £1,500 through Mr. Campbell, Hon. Secretary of the Patriotic League Branch, for the purchase of a further aeroplane, which we hope we shall be able to present on August 4th, the fourth anniversary of the War. Shanghai has always taken a very special interest in our Imperial Aircraft Flotilla and altogether the purchase-money for eleven aeroplanes and three seaplanes has been collected there. Our congratulations for this splendid result are specially due to Mr. H. H. Read, the Committee of the Shanghai Race Club, and a number of other enthusiastic helpers. Through Mr. Read and his friends we have received in all nine machines, quite a strong fighting force by itself.

NINGPO, CHINA.—Ningpo has carried out an excellent patriotic programme during 1917 by various means—concerts, lectures, tournaments, fetes, etc.—and the sum of $4402.53 has been raised. Secretary, Mr. G. H. Edwards.

PEKING, CHINA.—Mr. A. L. Davidson, Hon. Secretary, writes :—"You will note that we have almost a hundred Members now, and we hope to increase this number within the next month or two." The Peking Branch has recently sent in £643 for various purposes.

SANTA CRUZ, TENERIFFE.—We have many generous friends in Santa Cruz, and the Branch Secretary, Mr. Hamilton, has recently forwarded to Headquarters a further £100 towards the Seaplane Fund and £154 to the Red Cross.

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON.—The Annual Statement for 1917 and up to June 8th, 1918, shows that, to date, this go-ahead Branch has collected $4,000. The Members are now planning a big effort in connection with the War Memorial, and we feel sure that Seattle will be well represented in our Overseas Building. It would be impossible to name our many good friends at Seattle without being invidious, and so we must content ourselves with sending our best wishes to them, and may British-American friendship, as exemplified by this Branch, continue to flourish.

LEVUKA, FIJI.—Our Levuka membership has suffered severely through the War, but our energetic H.C.S. there, Captain Garner Jones, is not in any way discouraged, but is carrying on, so that there may be a nucleus around which a strong Branch may be formed at the conclusion of hostilities.

ST. VINCENT, CAPE VERDE ISLANDS.—Mr. R. E. S. Maunsell, our H.C.S., has recently organised a billiard tournament by means of which £83 was raised for St. Dunstan's. The eight men who took part are all Members of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League. The splendid batches of Members and renewals received from Mr. Maunsell shows that our interests in Cape Verde Islands are in good hands.

H. C.

The Youngest Member of the Algiers Branch. Taken by Mr. Phillips, who holds the reputation of being the finest amateur photographer in North Africa. Notice the good ship *Overseas*.

What Five Hundred Members have done for the Overseas War Memorial

[Our tribute to the men from overseas who have given their lives in the Empire's service, how the readers of "Overseas" are helping.—Editor.]

What Five Hundred Members have done for the Overseas War Memorial.

SO far just over five hundred of our kind friends overseas have contributed to the Overseas War Memorial, and the sum collected amounts to £2,100. Every successive foreign mail brings us an increasing number of letters with contributions, and it is evident that interest in the Overseas War Memorial is steadily increasing. Although the progress made so far is very gratifying, we shall not be contented till every reader of "Overseas" is lending a hand. To realise our ambition of a truly worthy memorial to the memory of the men from overseas who have made the great sacrifice, we want your individual help.

We have received some splendidly encouraging messages and offers of help last month, and, more important still, many generous donations. Our branches, one by one, are taking up the Overseas War Memorial, and just as we hope that every isolated Member's name will appear in our Golden Book, so we trust that every branch of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League will take a share in erecting our Temple of Honour. Our hope is that each branch will make itself responsible for a section of our building. Let Shanghai provide a Shanghai room, Melbourne a Melbourne room, and so on.

Our Montreux (Switzerland) branch's subscription was the first to reach us. This was followed by the generous gift of £100 from our splendid branch at Bilbao, Spain. Mr. E. Sandon, our Hon. Corresponding Secretary, writes that the gift is—

"From the Bilbao British colony and Spanish friends in memory of those connected with Bilbao who have died for the British Empire in the present war."

Our ever-active branch at Aden, Arabia, forwards, through the Secretary, Mr. S. P. Patel, £50. Gifts also reach us from our H.C.S.'s on behalf of local members at Copenhagen through Mr. C. A. Hamm; from Turin, Italy, through Sir Walter Becker, K.B.E.; and through Mr. H. Mitchell, Lisbon, Portugal.

The Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League has many warm friends and staunch supporters at Oporto, Portugal. Mr. A. de M. Turner, our Hon. Corresponding Secretary, writes :—

"It is my intention to present to each of our members in writing a personal appeal for the Overseas War Memorial, and I hope to be able to send you a sum which would entitle us to some portion of the building it is projected to acquire, bearing the name of the Oporto branch in memory of those gone from here who have fallen in the war."

What Five Hundred Members have done for the Overseas War Memorial.

We hope Oporto's splendid example will be widely followed.

Groups of Members in the territory of Hawaii are getting together and taking up the idea. £10 reaches us through Mr. J. T. Moir on behalf of friends at the Onomea Sugar Company, Papai Rou, and £20 from Mr. Robert Hall and family at Niulii Plantation, Kohala.

With a splendid gift of £105 comes the following delightful letter from Mr. Charles W. Wood, of Messrs. Hood Bros., Ltd., Wynyard Lane, Sydney, N.S.W. :—

"The writer has to acknowledge receipt of booklet in connection with your Overseas War Memorial, which I have very carefully read with intense interest. The beauty and splendour of the idea has not failed to impress me most deeply, and I consider it not only a pleasure, but a privilege, to assist in paying a lasting tribute to the memory of those who have given themselves for the cause of freedom by enclosing herewith draft for the amount of one hundred guineas, as a personal donation to what you so rightly call a sacred cause, having as one of its incentives the high object of drawing closer in the bonds of comradeship British subjects in all parts of the world.

"Would not this be an opportune time to endeavour to bring about a closer relationship between the American and British peoples by extending your worthy appeal to my countrymen in U.S.A. ?

"Trusting your appeal will meet with the world-wide support and united sympathy of all English-speaking peoples, which it so richly deserves, and with all good wishes . . . . "

Donations are already beginning to trickle through from the West Indies and Central America. The Governor of the Leeward Island, Mr. T. A. V. Best, C.M.G., C.B.E., in forwarding £10, sends these kind words :—

"I have had much pleasure in sending my donation and wish every success to the Overseas War Memorial and the great work the Club is carrying on."

Paper restrictions prevent us from doing justice to our world-wide correspondence, but the outstanding fact is that every week witnesses the band of War Memorial subscribers increasing in numbers and enthusiasm. We ask those Members who have not yet lent a hand to start collecting right away, and not to wait for the receipt of the descriptive booklets from Headquarters. We ask you to spare us what you can afford—nay, more than you can afford—so that we can—

(1) Erect in the heart of the Empire a building dedicated to the memory of the men from overseas, and which will be devoted to the interests of British subjects from across the seas for all time ;

Our War Memorial Stamp, which is to be sold for the benefit of the Fund ; 20 for 1s., post free from Headquarters.

What Five Hundred Members have done for the Overseas War Memorial.

(2) Promote the welfare of those who have suffered in the great War, and especially look after the Empire's children—the citizens of to-morrow ;

(3) Draw closer in the bonds of comradeship British subjects in all parts of the world.

The money received will be invested in war bonds, and a balance-sheet of the Overseas War Memorial Fund will be prepared by our auditors, Messrs. E. Layton Bennett & Co., 81, Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C., and a copy sent in due course to every subscriber.

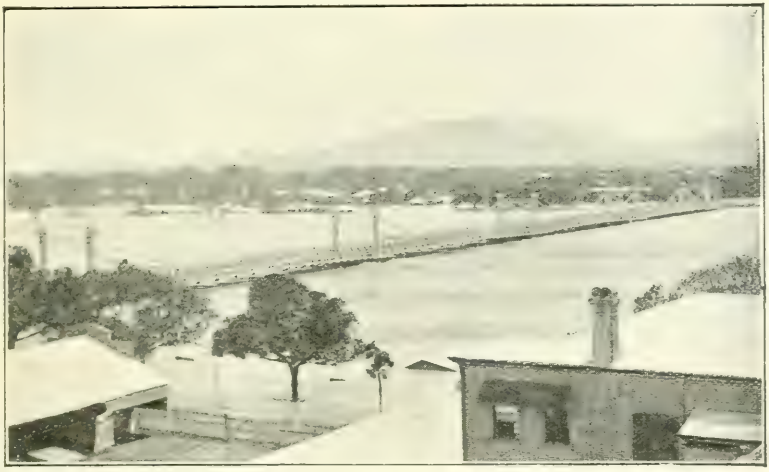
LIST NO. 5.

	£	s.	d.
Charles E. Hood, Esq., Wynyard Lane, Sydney, Australia ..	105	0	0
E. Sandon, Esq., Bilbao, Spain: *"From the Bilbao British colony and Spanish friends, in memory of those connected with Bilbao who have died for the British Empire in the present war"*	100	0	0
William S. Bowman, Esq., New Bedford, U.S.A.	20	0	0
Major-Gen. J. M. Stewart, C.B., Aden	10	0	0
Walter F. J. Cosser, Esq., Ontario, Canada	10	0	0
T. A. V. Best, Esq., C.M.G., C.B.E., Leeward Islands, B.W.I.	10	0	0
Miss Lewis, Beaufort, Victoria, Australia: *"In memory of Vyoyan W. Hughes, John Russell, Robert Russell"* ..	10	0	0
J. N. S. Williams, Esq., Theo. H. Davis & Co., Honolulu, T.H.: *"In memory of William Towle Taylor, 47th Canadian Light Infantry, who fell in action on the Somme late in 1916"*	10	0	0
Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw & Bros., Messrs. H.C., K.C., R.D., N. R., M. R., F. H., D. H., and Mrs. F. H. Dinshaw, Aden	10	0	0
Saleem M. Messa, Esq., Aden	10	0	0
Robert Hall, Esq., Kohala, Hawaii	10	0	0
Miss Ellen Hall, Kohala, Hawaii	10	0	0
Henry Husted, Italy	10	0	0
Ahmedbhoy I. A. Lalljee, Esq., Aden	7	0	0
Hugh R. Hughes, Esq., Wichita, Kas., U.S.A.	5	5	0
R. G. Pilliner, Esq., Bolsa de Comercia, Buenos Aires ..	5	0	0
John Mutton, Esq., Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.	5	0	0
Miss Violet M. Kirby, Redlands, California, U.S.A.	5	0	0
Philip T. Clement, Esq., J.P., Channel, Newfoundland ..	5	0	0
Lieut. A. G. Dodson, D.S.O. (R.N.R.), H.M.T. "Retake" ..	5	0	0
R. B. Daly, Esq., Black River, Jamaica, B.W.I.	5	0	0
F. Dodwell, Esq., New York, U.S.A.	5	0	0
William C. K. Hansen, Esq., Copenhagen	5	0	0
W. Foley, Esq., Alcala 30, Madrid	5	0	0
Mrs. E. Money, Territet, Switzerland	5	0	0
Lieut.-Col. C. T. Hudson, I.M.S., Aden	5	0	0
The total donations of under £5	196	13	7
Acknowledged last month	1,507	17	1
Total	£2,116	10	8

OVERSEAS

Flood Time in Queensland (January, 1918).

Sent by Mr. W. Broome, Kooringal, Rockhampton, Queensland.



A General View of Rockhampton, showing Fitzroy Bridge in the Centre.

A View of East Street—the Main Street in Rockhampton. Fortunately the water was shallow enough to enable waders to get from point to point.

OVERSEAS

Rockhampton, Queensland, under Water.

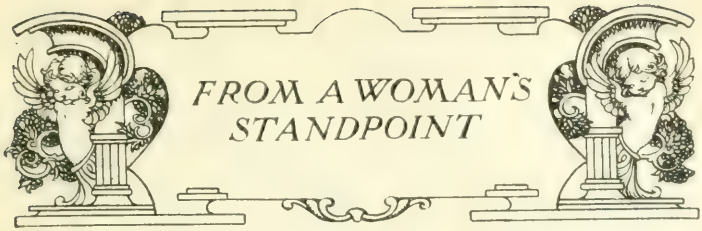
Four Views sent by Mr. W. Broome, H.C.S. at Rockhampton.

A Scene in East Street, Rockhampton, during the Recent Floods.

Rockhampton Railway Station.

Alexandra Railway Bridge, Rockhampton.

A General View of the South End of Rockhampton in Flood Time.



The Anniversary of the War

From a Woman's Standpoint.

THE four most amazing years in history have been completed, and we are still at war. We must take long views when we try to face what the civilised world is enduring and what may yet lie ahead, and, for our comfort, let us never forget that ideas are much more explosive than bombs and their results far more enduring.

The deep-rooted instinct of every man to be himself, to develop his own life, means equal opportunity for each one to search for and find and to express truth; to live for and to love beauty in all its myriad forms, and to devote himself to the ideals imprinted on him by his beneficent Creator.

Man's ideals are in themselves indestructible, more clamant and more persistent than even the deepest-rooted instinct, and are what is referred to by the greatest of all human teachers when He said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away." In other words, Kings may come and Kings may go, Kaisers may rob and riot, but man as man, with all his infinite longings and undreamed-of possibilities, remains at the centre of the stage and will be there, even if alone, when the curtain of existence may fall.

In a word, "Man," as Rousseau said, "is born free." He is born with a prejudice for righteousness; he is born for fellowship, and for these things he has always been ready to fight. It is these things which are incompatible with Prussianism, and the democratic spirit of the world has made up its mind that Prussianism must be annihilated. With this knowledge, we may go forward, our hearts uplifted and our courage high, thanking God we fight in a just cause.

OPENING OF THE BABIES OF THE EMPIRE TRAINING CENTRE.—Nothing could have been more successful than the opening by the Right Hon. W. F. Massey of the Babies of the Empire Training Centre in the early days of July.

The sun poured into the rooms, gay with flowers and shining with the cleanliness one usually associates with a country home. Trim-looking students in blue overalls and white caps flitted amongst the babies, who looked so well and happy that visitors found it hard to believe that they were ailing or needed any special care.

From a Woman's Standpoint.

A crowded audience listened, with deep attention, to the speeches, and once again we were made to realise how fortunate we are to have Dr. Truby King on this side of the world, and how much we still have to learn from New Zealand, with her splendid record in saving babies and rearing a vigorous race—a record unsurpassed by any other country.

I wish all the Members of the Club, especially the women Members, could see the Training Centre for themselves, and the many simple plans and arrangements for giving a baby all he needs to keep him healthy and hearty.

BABY WEEK.—Baby Week was quieter this year than last, but none the less useful. The Exhibition was arranged with a view to the least possible expenditure, and was designed to attract and help the expert rather than to convert the man in the street.

The Babies of the Empire Stall made a capital display, and the charts and wax models brought over from America to this country by Dr. Truby King drew crowds of interested inquirers.

Dr. Truby King himself gave constant demonstrations and lectures, always arousing enthusiasm amongst his hearers, and his books, "Feeding and Care of Baby," "The Natural Feeding of Infants," and "The Story of the Teeth," were eagerly bought up. As we listened to him speaking at the mass meeting on the opening day we felt proud to think that the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League had been instrumental in bringing him home to the Old Country.

A collection at St. Ethelburga the Virgin's on the Sunday in Baby Week was given to the funds of the Babies of the Empire. Perhaps this example might be followed somewhere overseas for the same cause.

TO THE WOMEN MEMBERS EVERYWHERE.—You will have gathered as you have read these notes month by month that we at Headquarters are tremendously interested in the first bit of social work undertaken by the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League in the Old Country, viz., the Babies of the Empire Society. Our training centre is just open and getting into running order, and is already proving itself a boon to many anxious mothers and to their babies. The need for such a centre is only too evident ; numbers of men and women engaged in the great fight for health have told me they feel that at last we have a man able to arouse enthusiasm and capable of giving just the needed impetus to all the problems concerned in the saving and rearing of babies.

For our task we need money. We need £10,000 at once, and another £10,000 in the immediate future. The generosity of the members of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League is a by-word ; they have given without stint and grudge. This time we make a special appeal to women, to each one of you who is a mother and

From a Woman's Standpoint.

who has perhaps lost a son, to each one of you who is childless, but who, nevertheless, possesses the mother heart—will you personally help the babies of the Empire ?

You will say at once : "Yes, I would gladly help, but how can I do so ? I have given all I can to help the soldiers, the sick and the wounded. I have nothing more to give." Think again ! We thought so, too, in this country until, last year, it struck two women I know that the women of England might give a jewel to help to save some little child.

The women of the Empire can do the same. You can give a jewel, a bit of silver, a piece of china or old lace, or some other treasure, to the Babies' Gift and Treasure Fund. Will you try and see what you can do, either locally or by sending the gift to Headquarters ? But in either case write first to us, and we will send you suggestions that have proved of use here in organising the Fund.

A TRIPLET.—The picture of the three little girls on this page will interest my readers. They are triplets, three years old, and have never had a day's illness. They are very devoted to each other, and never quarrel, so their mother told me. They were all dressed alike in white lace and blue ribbons, and are called Faith, Hope, and Charity ! They had tea at the table next to mine, and sat in a row facing their mother and elder sister, and I wondered how any one could ever tell them apart, they are so exactly alike. In fact, looking at three little human beings identical in every particular made me feel as if I had strayed into some fantastic world where unreal things were real.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE.—If you start at the corner where the buses stop, you who have not been home to the heart of the Empire since the War began would be amazed at the change. It is no longer a sober and serious place ; it has become a blaze of colour and movement and the scene of endless events. Tanks and captured guns and aeroplanes have been on view there ; immense placards adorn Nelson's pillar, put up from time to time for one Government department or another, the very last coming from the War Office and appealing for 30,000 more women. One side of the Square was taken up recently by a flower-market, which attracted a throng of buyers.

THE WAYFARER.

Faith, Hope, and Charity Clifford.

By A. St. John Adcock

My Month's Reading.

WE were on the friendliest terms with France for a good many years before the War, but that old friendship was a tepid and colourless sentiment compared with the warmth of feeling, the understanding and sympathy that have grown up between the two nations since they have been fighting side by side on French soil against the aggression of a common enemy. What that aggression has meant to France, how heroically she has borne herself under it, and the comradely, eminently practical expression that British men and women have given to their sympathy and admiration—working with the Red Cross and under various organisations among the wounded, the refugees and the indomitable fighting-men of France—those things you may learn from Laurence Binyon's moving and deeeply interesting narrative in "For Dauntless France." He supplements it with vividly impressionistic stories and sketches of what he saw and thought and experienced in the devastated country along the Western front. Beautifully produced, and illustrated by distinguished artists, the book will be a permanent memorial of the brotherhood between Britain and France that was proved and not found wanting in the years of the great War.

NEW WAR VERSE.—Two new books of war verse that will not pass with the War are Lieut. E. A. Mackintosh's "War the Liberator," and Geoffrey Dearmer's "Poems." Lieut. Mackintosh was killed in the fighting about Cambrai last November. His first book, "A Highland Regiment," had appeared a few months before that, and the poetry in these two volumes is the real thing. It makes no compromise with the grim realities of war, but is charged with a soldierly joy in battle for a great cause, a passionate love of country and of comrades, a fearless acceptance of death for himself, and the tenderest human pity for the suffering and the sorry. These same qualities are in Geoffrey Dearmer's poems, with perhaps a subtler emotional power and a more exquisite sense of the beauty of language. The War has inspired no finer or more poignant verse than "The French Mother to her Unborn Child." He writes of the horrors of the battle-front as Keats might have written of them and, in "Gommecourt," as in "Spring in the Trenches," touches

them with the healing beauty that is in the grass that grows over graves.

A STUDY OF RUSSIAN PROBLEMS.—M. Emile Vandervelde went recently on a mission into Russia, to study the political, military and industrial conditions of the country, and he has set down clearly and forcibly what he saw there, what he learned from interviews with Russia's present-day leaders, and the opinions to which those inquiries brought him, in "Three Aspects of the Russian Revolution." It is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the problems Russia is facing, and throws light on her probable future and the part she may yet play in the ultimate reconstruction of Europe.

MUSIC AND TRAVEL.—But to get away from the War for a little—here is Safroni-Middleton's "Wine-Dark Seas and Tropic Skies," an easy-going, entertaining book of travel, full of anecdotes and romance and picturesque adventure in the South Seas ; and here is a concise and attractively written "Introduction to British Music," that should be helpful to the music lover and will gratify all and sundry by its detailed proof that there is no ground for the sneer that England is not a musical nation ; and here again—and in particular—is "What Every Woman Knows," the first in a series of J. M. Barrie's plays, which most of us have seen but none of us have read because, with about two exceptions, none of them have till now been put into print. There is no need to praise Barrie ; it is enough to say that the charm and humour and elusive pathos of "What Every Woman Knows" is as delightful in the book as it was on the boards, and you can't say that of more than one play in a hundred.

STORIES OF THE NAVY.—How many books about the Navy John S. Margerison has written since the War started I do not know—I have given up counting—but so long as they are all as good as his three latest, "The Hungry Hundred," "Petrol Patrols," and "Hunters of the U-Boats"—all published in the last month—nobody will wish him to put the brake on. Two of these, like nearly all his others, are short stories of how our seamen, in different branches of the Service, are fighting the Hun over the water and under it.

Kittens who are Collecting for our Tobacco Fund. The little daughter of Mrs. Laura Boles, Castle Place, Sandycove, Dublin, is holding them. (See Mail Bag, p. 69.)

My Month's Reading.

"The Hungry Hundred" is his first novel—a stirring tale of how the Navy can take in hand a crowd of toughs, wastrels, undesirables, and tactfully and skilfully transform them into good men and gallant fighters.

NOVELS OF THE MONTH.—Fiction this month has been very plentiful and in sufficient variety to suit everybody. There is character, a Hardyesque realism of treatment and some intimate pictures of Cornish life in "Wastrells," with its dramatic story of the vain struggle of a man's will for mastery over a woman's; "The Man in Grey" is a dashing romance of old France in the Baroness Orczy's popular vein; and "While Paris Laughed," with its irony and tenderness, its wit and humour, is all the most delicate comedy with a shrewd knowledge of humanity underlying its airy gaiety. "A Son of the Manse," ably and imaginatively written, is a sort of modern Rake's progress, with a parson's son for a hero. "The Anchor" continues the story of Laddie Macallister, which Mr. Sadler began in his first novel, "Hyssop," and threads on an unusual and unusually charming love romance bizarre and amusing sketches of bohemian and literary life in Paris and London. "Paul Campanhaye" is a specialist in criminalogy, and his tales are all of mystery and strange crime—and capital tales, too, of their kind. The new alien-enemy legislation accentuates the topical interest of "Yellow English," a vigorous sensational story of the intriguing of the naturalised German in our midst before and since the War. For a very admirable story of the German who is not in our midst, to say nothing of his delightful English wife, read "Karen."

SOME BOOKS OF THE MONTH.—"For Dauntless France," by Laurence Binyon. 10s. 6d. net. (Hodder.) "War the Liberator and Other Pieces." by E. A. Mackintosh, M.C. 5s. net. (Lane.) "Poems," by Geoffrey Dearmer. 2s. 6d. net. (Heinemann.) "Three Aspects of the Russian Revolution," by Emile Vandervelde. 5s. net. (Allen & Unwin.) "Wine-Dark Seas and Tropic Skies," by A. Safroni-Middleton. 12s. 6d. net. (Grant Richards.) "An Introduction to British Music," by Percy A. Scholes. 2s. 6d. net. (Cecil Palmer.) "What Every Woman Knows," by J. M. Barrie. 3s. 6d. net. (Hodder.) By John S. Margerison: "The Hungry Hundred." 3s. 6d. net. (Pearson); "Petrol Patrols." 5s. net. (Hodder); "Hunters of the U-boat." 1s. 6d. net. (Pearson.) "Wastrells," by Mrs. Dawson Scott. 6s. net. (Heinemann.) "The Man in Grey," by Baroness Orczy. 6s. net. (Cassell.) "While Paris Laughed," by Leonard Merrick. 6s. net. (Hodder.) "A Son of the Manse," by Tressider Sheppard. 6s. net. (Melrose.) "The Anchor," by M. T. H. Sadler. 6s. net. (Constable.) "Paul Campanhaye," by J. S. Fletcher. 5s. net. (Ward, Lock.) "Yellow English," by Doreta Flatau. 6s. net. (Hutchinson.) "Karen," by Mrs. Alfred Sidgwick. 6s. net. (Collins.) "The Laws of Chance," by F. E. Mills Young. 6s. net. (Lane.) "While Guy was in France," by Thomas Cobb. 6s. net. (Stanley Paul.)

When you have read "Overseas" please lend it to a friend.

[We invite all our readers to send us practical housekeeping hints which they have found useful in their own homes—good recipes, health hints, suggestions for the garden, advice for the farm; in fact, any and every bit of information which will be of use to fellow-Members. Every reader of "Overseas" is a home-maker, and every home-maker has got some helpful advice to give, which is worth listening to. Our readers can help us to make our "Best Way" pages one of the most useful features of "Overseas."—Editor.]

The Best Way.

ATTRACTIVE VERANDAH DECORATION.—A pretty decoration for the verandah can be made by lining some cheap wire baskets with green moss from the woods, mossy side out, and fill in with ferns. Pack the roots well with rich soil. The ferns will keep growing all the summer. Water by standing the basket in a pail of water overnight.—Mrs. D. Howitz, Fredensborg, Denmark.

LEMON CHEESE.—In these days, when syrup is hard to get for tarts, lemon cheese is an excellent substitute, and the following is a very simple method for making it. The ingredients required are: three lemons (no pithy matter); three yolks of eggs; three teacups of boiling water; two tablespoonfuls of cornflour, and sugar according to taste. Method: Beat up eggs with lemon, add sugar, then the boiling water, and stir in cornflour, and after boil all ingredients till it thickens. The above quantities make 2 lbs.—Miss Basson, "Bankside," Sunbury Road, Hampton-on-Thames.

TO WASH BLACK BLOUSES.—If there is any chance of the colour running in a black blouse it should be first soaked in water to which half a cupful of salt and two tablespoonfuls of vinegar have been added. The blouse should be left in this water for at least an hour, preferably longer.

CREAMED SPINACH AND POACHED EGGS.—Wash a peck of spinach. Put it into a stewpan with half a cupful of cold water and cook from twenty to thirty minutes. Salt the spinach, drain, and chop fine. Put a tablespoonful of butter substitute into a saucepan; stir in a tablespoonful of flour; add salt and pepper, the spinach and half a cupful of top milk. Stir constantly for five minutes. Serve on a hot platter with poached eggs.

TO REMOVE COFFEE STAINS.—Coffee or ink spilt on a light fabric may be removed, provided the material has not been washed with soap since it was stained, by holding the piece over a bowl and slowly pouring boiling water through it. Still another plan is immediately to cover the spot to the depth of a quarter of an inch with paste made of laundry starch and cold water. Let the starch dry; then break up and rub off. The spot will most likely have disappeared. If there are still traces of it, repeat the operation.

The Best Way.

TO PREVENT SKIN ON BOILED MILK.—When boiling new milk, to prevent a skin from forming on the top when it cools, add two tablespoonfuls of cold milk to every pint when at boiling point and stir for a minute. The so-called skin will then be reabsorbed, and the milk will not be so impoverished.

STAINS ON POLISHED SURFACES.—To remove stains made by hot dishes and plates on a polished table, rub the white marks with a flannel dipped in a little ammonia.

TO CLEAN LAMP-GLASSES.—To clean lamp-glasses hold them over a jug of boiling water until well steamed. Then polish with a dry duster. It is far less trouble than washing, and the glasses very rarely break.

A CHEAP POLISH.—A good and cheap polish can be made by melting all the candle ends you have in a jar. Mix with sufficient turpentine to make a soft paste, and apply to stained floors, linoleum, etc., in the ordinary way.

A NOVEL POTATO DISH.—To a cupful of milk add a tablespoonful each of flour and nut butter. Make smooth and bring to the boil ; then add four tablespoonfuls of grated cheese. Whip some mashed potatoes very lightly, season with butter, pepper, and salt, and arrange in a mound on a plate. Scoop out the centre and spread stiffly whipped white of egg over potatoes. Fill centre with the cheese sauce, sprinkle fine bread crumbs over top, and brown in oven.—Miss F. Hoyle, Wingfield House, Sherborne, Dorset.

SUGARLESS TEA.—A good hint for making tea palatable is to add a sprig of saffron or a pinch of lime blossom.—Miss Wyche, 51, Van Eeghenstraat, Amsterdam.

WASHING HANDKERCHIEFS.—A good way to wash linen or silk handkerchiefs is to add two cupfuls of table salt to half a pailful of water and leave them to soak in this for a few hours. Then remove from the water, place in soapy water, and wash. Very fine lace handkerchiefs should be washed with a little ammonia in the water, and these should not be ironed. Pull out the lace, and spread the handkerchief out until nearly dry ; then fold and press under a heavy weight.

DARNING TIP.—Keep a crochet hook by you when darning stockings, and, if there is a very big hole, crochet in a patch in treble crochet instead of darning it. A stocking mended in this way is perfectly comfortable in wear, and one can crochet so much more quickly than one can darn.

RENOVATING CARPETS.—The colours of faded carpets can be completely restored by a mixture of salt and cold water. Fly marks can be removed by sponging with vinegar and water.

CLEANING LEATHER CHAIRS.—An excellent way of cleaning leather chairs is to put a little vinegar into water and rub the mixture over the chairs. After this polish well with brown or black boot polish according to the colour of the leather.—Mrs. Pridham, Robertsbridge, Sussex.

SPLINTERS IN FINGERS.—If you get a splinter in a finger you can easily remove it in this way : Fill a bottle nearly full of hot water, thrust the injured part over the mouth of the bottle, and press firmly. The flesh will be drawn down and the splinter very soon exposed under the action of the steam. Apply boracic lotion or ointment after removing the splinter.

FRESHENING A ROOM.—A piece of charcoal sprinkled with a few drops of oil of verbena or lavender oil will purify and disinfect a room. It is a good thing to burn this in a room where there has been a lot of smoking on the previous night.

Saving Lives for the Empire

By Sir Alexander Roger

[The writer of the following article was from August, 1914, to June, 1915, Director of the Motor Ambulance Department of the British Red Cross Society, whose ambulances during that period carried over 500,000 wounded. From June, 1915, to November, 1917, he organised, as Director-General, under Mr. Lloyd George, the Trench Warfare Supply Department, Ministry of Munitions. Sir Alexander Roger has recently become Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Babies of the Empire Society, founded under the auspices of the Over-Seas Club.—Editor.]

Saving Lives for the Empire.

I WAS asked the other day why I was working for the Babies of the Empire Society. The answer is a long one ; a short article cannot express what I have learned during the last strenuous four years. It is not possible to set down in writing the pitiless, inevitable arguments as they have been scored deep in my brain by what I have seen, felt, and heard.

I was many times in France during the first nine months following that memorable August in 1914, those dark days when the Empire was reeling under the blows of the Prussian legions. Our unpreparedness is matter of common knowledge ; we all know that our immortal "Contemptibles" were hurried to France and opposed to hundreds of thousands of Prussians, giving way by inches only as they were cut down.

But it is not so generally realised that our ambulance and Red Cross machinery was equally unprepared. There was little transport provided for the wounded beyond ammunition and Army Service Corps waggons. The authorities would not admit there was a shortage of transport, and although streams of broken men were dying on the roads and in the trains, we literally had to fight for permission to land ambulances in France.

Things have changed since those early days—the Red Cross service is a marvellous machine, working with perfect rapidity and smoothness, but I have often wished that France could have been thrown open so that every one in the Old Country and in the Dominions could see with their own eyes the horrible waste of precious human material that goes on in a war like this. No man of any feeling could have such an experience without being possessed with an overpowering desire to make good the damage and wastage wherever possible, and in the field of reconstruction I can think of no more vital task than the rapid rebuilding of the race by means of the reduction of infant mortality, the saving of infant life.

What are the facts about infant life at present ? The late

Saving Lives for the Empire.

Lord Rhondda, best of authorities, has given them in a few terse words : "Of every 1,000 babies 250 die either before birth or during the first year of life; 100,000 babies die every year in the United Kingdom, and of these 50,000 could be saved. Out of every thousand born 11 die within the first twenty-four hours, 22 within the first week, 36 within the first month."

It is difficult to realise the significance of these figures, but apply them to yourselves. What if at every large gathering you attend the sentence went forth, "Out of every thousand in the audience 250 must die before the year is out. This must be, not because you are old or your work is done, and not on account of a visitation of some plague, but because we are ignorant about how to keep you alive, and we are really too busy on other matters to bother much"? What an uproar there would be! Would the vigorous amongst us leave it at that, or would they take steps to see that the sentence was *not* carried out? This is what we have to do for the babies, who are helpless and can do nothing for themselves. Particularly is it the duty of men, because men are strong and have in their hands the ruling of the country: and particularly is it the duty of women, because a Divine decree has allotted to them the proudest and most important work in the world—the care of children.

Do not think for one moment that the care of babies can be delegated to doctors. The doctors themselves—those of them who have examined the question with independent and unprejudiced minds—tell us that they cannot do more than watch and study. And even this will be of no avail unless there are numbers of devoted nurses who will join them in their work and do what Florence Nightingale did for the soldiers. She said that it was not the doctors who had saved the men's lives, but the nurses.

It is a singular coincidence, one might well interpret it as an omen, that the Over-Seas Club, which has launched the Babies of the Empire Society, has as its emblem , the Japanese symbol which denotes the creation of life, the origin of all things. It seems to me that the Members of the Over-Seas Club have more than a passing interest and responsibility in this great work.

We want £20,000 for Dr. Truby King's scheme to train and supply qualified nurses to care for all the babies in the land, and to bring knowledge and education to every mother. Send us money, and we will try to give a fair return by sending across to you in the years to come finer men and women to be citizens of the Empire.

Subscriptions should be sent to Sir Ernest Birch, K.C.M.G., Hon. Treasurer, Babies of the Empire Society, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.

[The Overseas Trade Bureau aims at being of use to Members. Genuine Trade enquiries are welcomed and suggestions invited. Members seeking markets for their goods have the free use of our pages. The object of the Overseas Trade Bureau is to develop British Empire Trade. We hope our readers will send in Trade hints and tell us of local opportunities.—Editor.]

Overseas Trade Bureau.

TINPLATES AND CAUSTIC SODA.—"We have about 210 tons of tinplates for disposal, which we are anxious to place on the Home market. I am enclosing samples and details with regard to the dimensions of the plate. We have also a supply of caustic soda to dispose of. We have a stock of about 3 tons in fifteen drums of about 140 kilos, and five drums of about 260 kilos which we are disposed to sell at a price of £11 5s. per 100 kilos F.O.B. Malta."—Enquiry 572, Malta.

We wrote on our Member's behalf to the Secretary of the London Association of Tinplate Merchants, Spencer House, South Place, London, E.C., and to Messrs. Norton, Owen & Co., 6, Great Winchester Street, London, E.C., who are communicating direct with our Member, requesting full particulars as to the quality and condition of the plates.

With regard to the caustic soda we wrote to Messrs. Fulton Bros. & Co., 163, Hope Street, Glasgow, who have written to our Member direct, asking for particulars with regard to the strength, etc., of the soda in question.

MALTESE LACE.—"I shall be much obliged if you will put me in touch with firms who deal in Malta lace or with Members of the Over-Seas Club who are interested and wish to purchase direct from me some Malta lace. The lace is hand-made, and I can supply at moderate prices, neckerchiefs, tray cloths, ladies' collars, sashes, scarfs, fans and trimming by length."—Enquiry 571, Malta.

We wrote on our Member's behalf to Messrs. Bastin, Merryfield & Cracknell, Ltd., 12, Gt. Portland Street, London, W. 1, who are anxious to see samples of the lace in question.

EARTHENWARE AND MINERAL WATERS.—"I wish to get into touch with firms that could supply the following articles: Earthenware, lemonade, ginger ale, etc., and hardware."—Enquiry 556, Lagos, Nigeria.

We put our Member into touch with Messrs. Baker & Co., Ltd., earthenware manufacturers, Fenton Potteries, Staffordshire, for earthenware, and they have forwarded a copy of their catalogue to our Member; we wrote on his behalf to Messrs. Schweppes, Ltd., manufacturers of table waters, Vauxhall Walk, Kennington, London, S.E., but, owing to the sugar shortage, they are unable to execute the orders they have already on hand, and cannot quote for new customers; to Messrs. J. Wilson Browne & Son, Ltd., Mercantile House, 154, Gt. Charles Street, Birmingham, and Messrs. John Harper & Co., Ltd., Albion Works, Willenhall, Staffs., for hardware, both of which firms are anxious to develop their business in Nigeria after the War.

OVERSEAS

Overseas Trade Bureau.

AGENCY FOR VALPARAISO.—"Could you put me in communication with any British firms which desire an Agent working on a Commission basis, in Valparaiso, where I am well-known. Now is the time for British firms to make up their minds to capture the South American trade, for beyond a doubt the Germans have long since made up their minds about it."—Enquiry 567, Iquique, Chile, South America.

The following firms are communicating with our Member, anxious to open up business relations with him: Messrs. R. White & Sons, Widnes, Lancs.; Messrs. Thorburn, Robertson & Co., 95, Bath Street, Glasgow; Messrs. H. Wise & Co., Finsbury Pavement House, London, E.C. 2.

FIREWORKS.—"I am anxious to obtain catalogues and prices of British fireworks as I wish to start a small wholesale business in Napier."—Enquiry 568, Port Ahuriri, Napier, New Zealand.

We wrote on our Member's behalf to Messrs. James Pain & Sons, Ltd., 9, St. Mary Axe, London, E.C. As at the present time there is such difficulty and uncertainty in regard to the shipment of explosives, they suggested that our enquirer should get into touch with their New Zealand agent, Mr. W. H. Hazard, 176, Queen Street, Auckland, New Zealand, who usually carries a complete and varied stock of their fireworks, and who could supply his requirements more quickly and more economically than if bought from London, especially as the freight on explosives is very high just now, and the prospects are that it will increase still further.

HARDWARE FOR CANADA.—"I am in business at Winnipeg as an importer of building specialities, and I wish to connect with some good British manufacturers, especially in the hardware line, so that I can sell to the wholesale hardware houses in the Dominion."—W. T. Grose, Oxford.

The following firms are taking the matter up with our Member: Messrs. J. Wilson Browne & Son, Ltd., Birmingham; Messrs. John Harper & Co., Ltd., Albion Works, Willenhall, Staffs.; Henry Campbell, 64, Basinghall Street, London, E.C.

WAR AND MARINE INSURANCE.—"Could you put me in touch with an Insurance Company which will insure goods, etc., against War and Marine Risks?"—Enquiry 573, Malta.

Messrs. James Hartley Cooper & Co., Ltd., 2, Cowper's Court, Cornhill, E.C., Marine Underwriters of the General Accident Assurance Company, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C. 2, are taking up the matter with our Member.

BUYING AGENTS.—"I am desirous of getting into touch with a good firm which could undertake to supply and despatch small orders for sundry articles which I am invariably wanting from time to time."—Enquiry 563, Chile, South America.

We put our Member into touch with Messrs. Williams Bros. & Co., 9, Mincing Lane, London, E.C. 3, a well-known firm of exporters and importers, and they are undertaking the matter for him.

PLAYING CARDS—"Would you kindly send us the names and addresses of manufacturers of playing cards?"—Enquiry 557, Gibraltar.

We forwarded our Member the following addresses:—Thomas de la Rue & Co., 116, Bunhill Row, E.C.; The Empire Card Co., 8, Errol Street, Bunhill Row, E.C. 1; Joseph Reynolds & Co., Ltd., Castle Court, St. Bride Street, E.C. 4.

TRADE IN AUSTRALIA.—"A representative of an Australian firm is being invalided home, and desires to discuss with manufacturers who are interested in Australian trade, post-war business as well as business possible under present conditions."—Enquiry 575, London, E.C. 3.

OUR MEMBERS' MAIL BAG

LETTERS from friends overseas telling of their life and surroundings are always welcomed at Headquarters, and, so far as space permits, we are very glad to reproduce extracts from them in these pages. Here is a budget from many varied quarters of the globe. Readers are invited to correspond with fellow Members.

EAST COAST OF HUDSON'S BAY.—Moose Factory, on James Bay, is the headquarters of the Hudson's Bay Company's trading district known as James Bay District, and extends from here to nearly up to Cape Wolstenholme on the east coast of Hudson's Bay and up to Cape Henrietta Maria on the west, comprising in all about 200,000 square miles.

The total population in this area is not more than 5,000, of which one-third are Esquimaux and nearly two-thirds Indians. The only whites are the traders and missionaries. Of this small population over 150 young Indians have enlisted for forestry work, for which they are very suitable. At Moose Factory and other posts in the district the officers' wives have had sewing classes for the women, and they have contributed in all nearly $3,000.00 to various Red Cross appeals and tobacco funds.

I think this is not a bad record when it is considered that 90 per cent. of the population are dependent on hunting for their living, and so far very few have come in contact with civilisation except at the trading outposts. I have several times thought of starting a branch of the Over-Seas Club, but communication is so extremely difficult and we meet so seldom that we could hardly make it a success; in fact, it would be a branch only in name.—B. H. Snape, Manager, Hudson's Bay Co., Moose Factory, James Bay, Ontario, Canada.

QUEENSLAND'S FLOODS.—I enclose a few photos taken after the cyclone of January 20th, 1918 (see photos facing p. 52). The terrible floods which followed devastated fully a thousand homes in this town, and caused damage to the extent of many thousands of pounds, though, luckily, there were only three or four drowning fatalities. Hundreds of cattle and sheep were drowned and carried away from both sides of the Fitzroy River.—W. Broome, Kooringal, Rockhampton, Queensland.

A MANX WOMAN.—I am a Manx woman and proud of my little island, as it has sent, in proportion to its inhabitants, one of the

Our Members' Mail Bag.

largest number of men to the forces fighting on land and sea. I believe that the Isle of Man ranks as the second highest.—Miss Harriett J. Cottier, 21, Alma Square, St. John's Wood, N.W. 8.

GALLANT LITTLE WALES AND THE UNION JACK.—I was very much interested in the article on "Our Flag," the story of the Union Jack, by W. Francis Aitken, which appeared in the "Empire Day, 1918," issue of "Overseas"—a most appropriate day for explaining the evolution of that glorious emblem. It cannot be made known too widely how we got that flag, and what it stands for, but I always feel sorry that no attempt has ever been made, as far as I know, to incorporate "gallant little Wales" within the folds of our glorious Union Jack. To my mind, a great opportunity was missed this day six years ago, when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was proclaimed "Prince of Wales" at Carnarvon, of carrying out three things which I was very keen to see done, viz. :

1. To proclaim His Royal Highness as "David," Prince of Wales, and not as "Edward";

2. To raise a battalion of "Welsh Guards," which, I am glad to say, is already a *fait accompli ;* and

3. To embody the white, upright or Latin cross on a blue ground, which is already there as the cross of St. David, and then the Union Jack would have been officially acknowledged to represent the four entities of Great Britain and Ireland through their patron saints—St. George, St. Andrew, St. Patrick, and St. David.

Is it too late to suggest that this last proposition may even now be carried out ?—Colonel Green, Vernatts, Park Road, Camberley, Surrey.

RECORD RAINFALL IN NORTH BORNEO.—On this estate, of which I am manager, we experienced very bad weather last month. The total rainfall was 52·90 inches from 1st January to 31st January, and from 1st January to 2nd February it registered 59·21 inches. My figures for January are not quite correct, because on the night of the 29th rain started at 9.30 p.m., and stopped at 5.30 a.m. on the 30th, but when I got up at 5.30 a.m. I found that my rain gauge had been overflowing, for how long I don't know. At any rate it holds only 11½ inches, so, of course, I could only register that amount, but it might have been much more. That is not bad for eight hours, is it ?

I have been more fortunate than other estates about 25 to 40 miles from here, which had 71 inches of rain during January. The river which runs in front of my bungalow through the estate overflowed its banks on 22nd ult., and did not subside below the level of the banks until 1st inst. (February). You can imagine what a time I have been having. The whole estate has been flooded, and in some places the water was 9 feet deep.

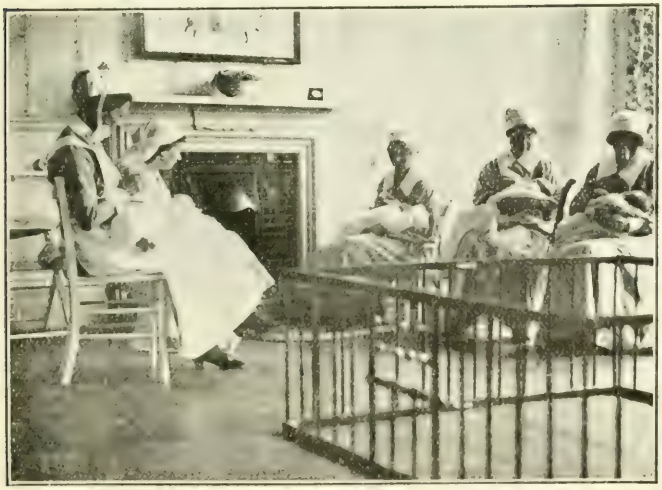
Our Members' Mail Bag.

My house is fortunately on fairly high ground, but even then there were 15 inches of water under it and over 2 feet in the kitchen. All work on the estate was stopped for eleven days because it was impossible to go anywhere except in boats.—F. L. Payne, Pitas Rubber Estate, Kudat, British North Borneo.

ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT.—In a recent issue of "Overseas" I read of some one who very much admired the English Lake District. That is my home, so I thoroughly agree with him when he says, "I am perfectly amazed at the really glorious scenery in the Lake District, and cannot understand why so few people visit it." Neither can I, for it is simply beautiful. The enclosed is a view of the river Greta, which flows into Derwentwater Lake and then on to the sea, having joined the river Derwent (see photo, p. 32). Keswick, on its bank, numbers about 5,000 inhabitants. It is surrounded by mountains and in summer is glorious, but in winter very cold. The lake and river are often frozen, as, needless to say, are all the pipes."—Miss A. Ewart, 4, Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY—SETTLERS' VIEWS WANTED.—With regard to Col. Ferguson's ideas on the Northern Territory of Australia—they are the views of an official, without doubt a very honourable one, but still an official, collating in most painstaking manner the views of other officials.

Now I want you to hear the views of the Australian settlers. Firstly, the idea of any nation wanting the Northern Territory is a myth; the country has been open for thousands of years to Malay



Bottle Time in the Babies of the Empire Training Centre. (See p. 61.)

Our Members' Mail Bag.

settlement ; more than one attempt has been made by them and abandoned. Why ? Because they found it not worth holding.

The initial expense of settling it would be enormous, the loss of life for enforced settlers appalling, and the results would be trifling compared with even very mild efforts and expenditure on the same lines on the Eastern and empty seaboard of North Queensland.

I would say to all kind and sympathetic friends of Australia, Have patience. There is only one nation that can tame the Northern Territory, and that is the Australian-bred men and women reared in the real Australia, on the sheep and cattle and wheat lands of the vast interior of the continent, among the heat, the dust, the flies and heart-breaking droughts (interspersed with glorious seasons) of that vast territory; bearing all the toil and disappointments with a dogged patience that would be sublime if it were not such an everyday occurrence.

When the time comes, and it may be sooner than expected, you may trust them to settle the Territory if it is humanly possible to do so. Meanwhile the endless disputes on the question are merely political gag, with nothing honest about them.—Fredk. H. Cutten, Bicton, Clump Point, *via* Townsville, Queensland.

REMOVING PREJUDICE AGAINST OLD COUNTRY.—I know the literature sent by the Over-Seas Club has done a lot of good. It has enlightened a great number as to the objects of the Allies, and removed many prejudices against Great Britain. I received a letter from a prominent New Englander, a railroad president and director of several corporations, thanking me for sending him copies of various things, admitting that he had been greatly prejudiced against the Old Country, but that the literature had changed this altogether. I am glad to bear witness to the good work of the Literature Committee of the Over-Seas Club, and I shall be glad to continue to do my bit in distributing it far and wide in this part of the country.—Rev. Lawrence Amor, St. James' Rectory, Woodstock, Vermont, U.S.A.

CYCLONE IN QUEENSLAND.—We have been through some pretty rough times lately. We had a cyclone on the 10th of March, followed by a flood which did considerable damage, but we were lucky compared to Innisfail, a town about ninety miles north of here. Every house was blown down with the exception of five, and twelve people were killed. Mackay, a town north of here, had another cyclone before this which pretty well wiped the town out. We have had a lot of rain since Christmas, but we consider ourselves lucky not to have suffered more than we did.—R. S. Alston, Sunnyside, Ingham, Queensland.

KITTENS BUY TOBACCO.—I enclose P.O. for £1 for the Overseas Tobacco Fund, being the price of our first batch of Persian kittens this year. I tried to photo them, but my kodak is only a small one,

and films are very scarce, and to get a batch of kittens to sit for a photo is no joke. So after spoiling six films I had to get my little girl to hold the kittens in her arms, and you see the mother in the foreground, moving off. (See photo, p. 57).—Mrs. L. Boles, 1, Castle Place, Sandycove, co. Dublin.

OIL FROM BEECH-NUTS.—Not all the readers of our wonderfully interesting little magazine may be aware of the fact that the fruit of the beech tree—a little triangular nut—yields a valuable oil, used in soap-making, and as an illuminant. At the present time, when the scarcity of oil is a serious matter, these nuts become still more valuable. In the Danish forests the work of clearing the ground of withered leaves, under and around the beeches, has now been started, in order that the work of gathering the nuts, in the autumn, may be more easy, and the result more satisfactory.

The nuts will be collected (in Denmark) in October-November, and transported to the oil mills. The price to be paid will be about 24 kroner (Danish) per 100 kilograms.

School-children and those unfit for harder work might earn, by the gathering of beech-nuts, a welcome addition to the household budget in these so trying times.—Mrs. D. Howitz, Fredensborg, Denmark.

A Group of O.S. Members on board H.M.S. *New Zealand*. Sent us by Mr. P. J. Voysey, H.C.S. for the Ship. "Pelorus Jack," the Bull Dog, which proudly wears the O.S. badge, is the ship's mascot and a Jutland veteran. The names from left to right are:

Back Row: W. Pollard, W. Jarrett, A. Blackmore, P. W. Chester, H. Lowe, T. C. Tomlinson, T. East, W. Copsey, P. J. Voysey, H.C.S.

Second Row: W. Featherby, A. Kanez, Rev. Rex V. Hodson, D. H. Maloney, L. Baldwin.

Sitting: W. Porter, "Pelorus Jack," W. Drage, R. E. J. Bartlett.

Overseas Employment and Information Bureau

[*Under the above title we propose devoting a section of "Overseas" to helping our Members to find suitable jobs across the seas. Many thousands of readers of "Overseas" must know of openings and have jobs to offer. Needless to say, the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League merely acts as a medium of introduction, and cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of any of the personal announcements published.—Editor.*]

Overseas Employment and Information Bureau.

PLANTER'S OFFER.—Part of unfurnished house, in beautiful repair, is offered until July, 1919, to officer or soldier who has been trained as practical farmer and has a little money and is desirous of picking up general information about tropical farming, tea planting, coffee, tobacco, cotton, etc. In exchange for this, he would work a short time daily, instructing native overseer, etc., in limited planting operations. A similar part-time arrangement could be made with another planter in district for cash. Planting begins in August, and is in full swing in December. Healthy highland country, Port Chinde, via Cape. Settler should take camp outfit and cycle (motor preferred). Satisfactory reply required, but vacancy not guaranteed.—*E. B., Box 325, c/o The Over-Seas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.*

FARM LABOURERS FOR QUEBEC.—Quebec wants specially farm labourers and is willing to give to returned soldiers a grant of 100 acres of land in the best clayish parts of the township Montgay, not far from the Trans-Continental Railway, north of the Province. Anybody desiring to have more information may apply to the Department of Colonisation, Quebec, P.Q., Canada.

OVERSEER ON A PLANTATION.—A discharged soldier of about 24, who joined His Majesty's Forces at the outbreak of war wishes to secure a position as Overseer of a plantation in India, Ceylon, or the East Indies. Before the War he worked in a locomotive repair shop, which he left after two years to gain further engineering experience as fitter in a motor engine department. He has been hon. secretary for local branch of Discharged Men's Union, and has had considerable experience in handling men, and organising and supervising working parties.—*E. B. 309.*

ENGINEERING WORK.—A discharged soldier, aged 24, with very good references, is anxious to obtain work connected with gas engineering. He has had experience and thoroughly understands suction plant and machinery. He is willing to go to any country.—*E. B. 306.*

MINING.—A soldier, aged 22, who is likely to be discharged from the Army shortly wants employment in a coal mine. Before the War he was an assistant miner and would like to go to Canada.—*E. B. 167.*

PRINTER ANXIOUS TO EMIGRATE TO AUSTRALIA.—A married man, aged 36, by profession a lithographic printer with eighteen years' experience, would like to emigrate to Australia after the War. At present he is serving in the Navy.—*E. B., 262.*

LAND WORK IN ENGLAND OR FRANCE.—Officer (43), married, two sons, wishes to take up land work in England or France after the War. Speaks French and Hindustani. Has been in India for some

years in connection with engineering work. Well acquainted with outdoor work and has keen aptitude for natural science.—*E. B., Box 295, c/o The Over-Seas Club, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.*

A COMMERCIAL POST WANTED AFTER THE WAR.—A soldier, aged 28, with eight years' experience in the Midland Railway Goods Department wishes to obtain a post after the War on an Estate or in a Commercial House. He is willing to go abroad.—*E. B. 221.*

A COMMERCIAL POSITION OF TRUST WANTED.—A discharged soldier aged 22, with a knowledge of farming and three years' office experience in Canada is anxious to obtain a position of trust where there is plenty of scope and opportunities of organisation and responsibility. He is willing to go abroad to any country.—*E. B. 290.*

POST AS FRENCH INTERPRETER WANTED AFTER THE WAR.—A married man, aged 39 (two children), is desirous of obtaining a good post as French interpreter after the War. He was educated at a school near Paris and can speak both French and Italian. Whilst in France and Italy he acted as interpreter. He is now serving with the Canadian Divisions.—*E. B. 294.*

CLERICAL OR OUTDOOR WORK.—Discharged soldier (28), single desires clerical or outdoor work in S. America, S. Africa, Australia, New Zealand, or any warm climate. Four years' experience in own business manufacturing drinking chocolate ; three years general business experience in New York.—*E. B., Box 321, c/o The Over-Seas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.*

POSITION OF TRUST WANTED.—Wounded soldier (37), expecting his discharge, would like outdoor or secretarial work, or position of trust in any of the British possessions where climate is good. Has had commercial and legal experience, and was deputy clerk of Crown and Peace (County Courts), Ireland, for eleven years. Would like position where there are prospects of promotion by merit.—*E. B., Box 322, Over-Seas Club, Aldwych, W.C. 2.*

STOKER, FIREMAN OR ENGINE TESTER.—A married man of 32 years, with one child, who has led a seafaring life as stoker since 1907, previous to which he was amongst horses, is anxious to find work as a stoker, or fireman and engine tester, aboard a revenue boat, at a minimum salary of £2 10s He has very good references and has a thorough knowledge of all kinds of boilers, water tube and marine. Will go anywhere abroad.—*E. B., Box 314.*

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER.—A married man, aged 29, would like to obtain a post with an English firm as a commercial traveller or representative after the War. He is willing to go to any part and has a good knowledge of English, Spanish, Arabic and French.—*E. B. 303.*

POST OF ENGINEER IN CHARGE OF PLANT OR MILL.—An engine-room artificer, who joined the Navy in 1916, having previously had ten years' engineering experience would like to communicate with a possible employer with a view to obtaining a post as engineer in charge of plant or mill. He has a splendid knowledge of estimating for electrical contracts, has studied economical running of power plants, ordinary compound engine or steam or water turbines, and general care of maintenance of plant. He is 27 years old, married (one boy), and is willing to go anywhere abroad, preferably to Chile.—*E. B., Box 315.*

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Edwin Campbell, in *THE GRAPHIC*, 15th June, 1918.

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AND AT
Derby, Paris, New York, Madrid, Bombay, etc.

OVERSEAS

Members' Exchange

Members' Exchange.

THOSE who desire to form friendships with fellow Members in distant parts of the world, to learn about local conditions, to exchange postcards and stamps, etc., have the free use of our pages. Here are a few names of those who have already told us of their desire to exchange correspondence :—

T. C. Tomlinson, H.M.S. "New Zealand," c/o G.P.O., London, would be pleased to receive an ordinary-sized bottle-cork and card from any Member of the Club for the purpose of making a life-saving belt for presentation to the Overseas Buildings, if possible, as a souvenir of the Great War when peace comes. A reply will be sent if desired on receipt of cork, on postcard of ship, or group of its Over-Seas Club Members. A further notice will appear in "Overseas" when the belt is completed and ready for use.

Miss Margaret G. Robb, British Vice-Consulate, Salaverry, Peru, South America.—"I am desirous of corresponding with any Member in any part of the world."

J. Herbert Preston, Port Blakely Mill Co., Port Blakely, Wash., U.S.A. —"I am an old King Edward School boy of Birmingham, and I should like to get into touch with any old boys who may be Members."

A. Morgan, P.O. Box 596, Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia, South Africa, would like to exchange used Rhodesian stamps, current and obsolete, for British colonials and war stamps of British and foreign countries. Will forward denominations ranging from *1d.* to *2s. 6d.*; exchange on Stanley Gibbons' basis.

C. S. Macdonald, National Bank of Australasia, Ltd., Barham, New South Wales, Australia.—"I wish to correspond with young men in any part of the world."

Miss Annie Ewart, c/o the Over-Seas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C. 2.—"I wish to get into touch with some one in any part of the world who would like to have letters from the Old Country, some one who would write and tell me all about their daily life, and in return I could tell them about mine."

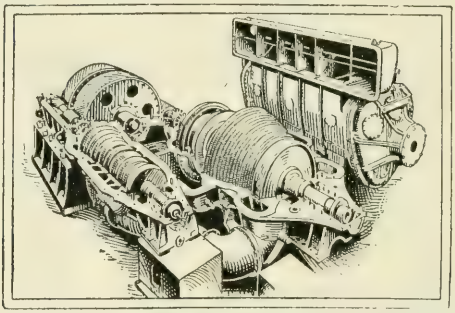
WAR POSTERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD WANTED. —"I will exchange stamps on any fair basis for war posters in any language. I will use these for exhibition purposes, all proceeds to go for war work. I will guarantee my stamps exchanged to satisfy, or will send new lot. References exchanged. No poster too small or from too remote a country."—E. H. Frost, Pres. Thomaston Knife Co., Thomaston, Conn., U.S.A.

RAT-KILLER WANTED. "I wonder if through the Members' column you can put me in touch with some one who knows what to do to destroy rats. This is a very old house, inhabited by my ancestors for many generations, and we have a real plague of rats. They crawl up the vines on the outside of the walls and get under the roof, as well as being plentiful in the cellars. There are so many hiding places for them that it is never possible to kill them all with ferrets and dogs." Miss O. F. Abbott, Market Square, Debenham, Suffolk.

(Continued on p. 75.)

VICKERS
LIMITED

All Types of Warships designed, built, engined, armed and armoured ready for service.



Turbines with gears for War or Merchant Vessels from 2,000 to 30,000 S.H.P.

Commercial Ships, Steam, Oil and Gas Engines, Railway Material, Electrical Plant, Aircraft, Train Lighting, Duralumin, Small Tools.

Works:	*Head Offices:*	*Works:*
Barrow-in-Furness.	**Vickers House,**	**Birmingham.**
Sheffield.	**Broadway,**	**Dartford.**
Erith.	**LONDON, S.W. 1.**	**Crayford.**
Ipswich.		**Weybridge.**

OVERSEAS

(Concluded from p. 73.)

Members' Exchange.

Miss L. Norton Wallis, National Bank Buildings, Putchard Street, Johannesburg, South Africa.—"I am anxious to correspond with members all over the world. I have a collection of postcards and snapshots and am desirous of adding to them."

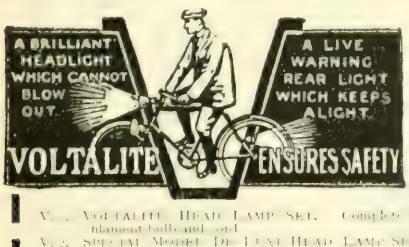
2nd A.M. H. Sidebottom, R.A.F., Balloon Base No. 3, c/o G.P.O., London.—"I shall be very glad if you can put me in touch with a chemist engaged in the chemical, dyes, mining, metal, and kindred trades. I am a pharmaceutical chemist assistant, and would like to exchange views."

J. E. E., c/o the Over-Seas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2. —"I should like to get in touch with members in Fiji with a view to corresponding. I am anxious to obtain information about the prospects for small planters in Fiji; it being a British possession and one with a healthy climate I am rather keen on going there."

H. Elsworth, Beira, O.F.S., South Africa. —"If I can be of any service to the Trade Bureau Department by answering queries, kindly do not hesitate to ask me."

Lieut., B.E.F., France. —"Young British officer, resident previous to the War in China, desires to receive photographs of old places in Britain and abroad, as China, Africa, Australia, etc."

"Farmer," c/o the Over-Seas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.—"Young married couple desire work on a farm, mixed or fruit. If possible near Derby or Wyndham, Kimberley Division, Western Australia, or in Queensland or Northern Territory. Man to work outside and wife to do cooking, dairying, etc. Willing to make themselves generally useful, but have no knowledge of farming."



The "VOLTALITE"
British made Self-Generating Electric Cycle Lighting Set.
No Acid, Oil or Re-charging necessary.
Thousands in use all over the world.

The "Voltalite" consists of a miniature but highly efficient self-regulating magneto generator which is attached to the front fork of the cycle and is driven by a small rubber-tyred wheel which works on the rim and is kept in contact with it to any required position by means of a spring attached to the wheel.

V. 1. VOLTALITE HEAD LAMP SET. Complete with generator, lamp, mounting, diamond bulb and cord ... 40/-
V. 2. SPECIAL MODEL DE LUXE HEAD LAMP SET. Complete with generator, very efficient bevel lamp, cord and bulb ... 50/-
V. 3. VOLTALITE HEAD AND REAR LAMP SET. Complete with rear light so that the generator illuminates a brilliant white light at head, a warning red light at rear, bulbs, cord and generator ... 50/-
V. 4. DE LUXE HEAD AND REAR LAMP SET. Complete with very efficient reflector, bulbs and cord ... 60/-

The above prices include postage and insurance.

Descriptive Pamphlet on Application.

At the present time we can only give delivery after M/M. Certificates. May we add your name to our Waiting List for Post-war delivery?

MR. W. ROBERTS, Timaru, N.Z., writes: "I am very well pleased with the VOLTALITE. It is a splendid idea and always ready for use."

Ward & Goldstone
SALFORD MANCHESTER

FOR BOXMAKING
BOOKBINDING
& OTHER
USES.

CARDBOARD

ON REELS OR IN SHEETS
SIZES AND WEIGHTS
ACCORDING TO
REQUIRE-
MENTS.

CAPACITY

1,000 TONS

PER WEEK

THAMES PAPER CO., Ltd.,

PURFLEET, ESSEX, England.

Cables - "Boards, Purfleet."

Counteracting German Propaganda.

WE shall be very pleased to forward free supplies of literature from the British and Allied standpoint to any of our Members. Literature and illustrated pamphlets can be supplied in practically any European language and in Chinese, Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Hindustani, etc. All applications should be addressed to the Over-Seas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2. Among the most recent publications available for distribution free of charge are the following :—

"GERMAN WAR AIMS." By Edwyn Bevan. Mr. Bevan has collated the views of the five principal groups in Germany as to the essential clauses which they consider should be embodied in any peace terms. Publishers, Longmans, Green & Co., 39, Paternoster Row, London.

"PRUSSIAN MILITARISM AT WORK." By the Right Rev. Dr. Cleary, Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland, New Zealand. Dr. Cleary, who has been acting as Catholic chaplain to a New Zealand brigade, has made a careful study of the facts of the German occupation. Publishers, Barclay & Fry, Ltd., London.

"THE GERMAN PIRATE—HIS METHOD AND RECORD." By Ajax. Details of German submarine exploits compiled from British Admiralty documents and the sworn statements of survivors, showing clearly the lines upon which the German submarine campaign has been conducted from the beginning of the War up to the latter part of 1917. Publishers, C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., 18, Henrietta Street, W.C. 2.

"SLAVE RAIDS IN BELGIUM." Facts about the deportations, by J. Van den Heuvel. Publishers, T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd.

"WHY WE CARRY ON." By J. Holland Rose, Litt. D. Mr. Holland Rose has answered very clearly the question which the many have asked themselves, and to which the few have found a satisfactory reply : "Why does the War last so long ?" Publishers, T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., Adelphi Terrace, London.

"GERMANY'S COLONIAL FAILURE." By Frank Maclean. Mr. Maclean has set forth admirably a collection of German evidence and opinions on the subject of the blunders and cruelty of their own authorities. Publishers, Burrup, Mathieson & Sprague, Ltd., London.

"MURDER MOST FOUL." By Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, one of America's foremost ministers, of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. Dr. Hillis spent two months in a personal investigation of the battlefields of France and Belgium, and is, therefore, able to give an authentic report of German atrocities. Publishers, *The Field and Queen* (Horace Cox), Ltd., Bream's Buildings, London, E.C. 4.

"THE PIRATE'S PROGRESS." By William Archer. Mr. Archer has sketched clearly the gradual decline from honourable to dishonourable methods in Germany's employment of the U-boat. Publishers, Chatto & Windus, London.

"FRIGHTFULNESS IN RETREAT." Describing the scenes of devastation and havoc caused by the Germans. Publishers, Hodder & Stoughton, London.

"THE VISTA OF VICTORY." By Basil Mathews. A few encouraging and welcome words in this the fourth year of war. Publishers, Hodder & Stoughton, St. Paul's House, Warwick Square, London, E.C.

BRITISH MADE

TIN FOIL

Highly polished foils, plain, printed, coloured or embossed, free from lead, for wrapping tobaccos, cigarettes, confectionery, food-stuffs, etc.

Manufactured by

Venesta Ltd.
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London
England

Our Hamper Fund

Our Hamper Fund.

AS the August issue of "Overseas" goes to press, glorious news comes to hand from the Western Front. The tidings of the critical plight of the enemy arrive at an opportune moment—the close of the fourth year of the Great War. The situation, after the terrific combat of the past week, is encouraging, and the enemy is already reported to be recrossing the Marne, in a frantic endeavour to escape from the territory which he won a few days ago, and which is now proving a veritable death-trap to him.

Despite the bitterest fighting and the most strenuous attempts on the part of the foe to check the French counter-attack, the Franco-American troops are still advancing. Farther north, the British troops are involved in the tremendous battle, and under their pressure the Hun has here, too, yielded important ground which he won only recently at so heavy a cost.

Our airmen have taken a brilliant part in the operations, attacking with machine-guns and bombs the concentrations of troops which the enemy was preparing in view of the counter-attacks and paralysing his columns and convoys with deadly accuracy. The bombing machines ceaselessly hindered and in many cases completely stopped the enemy supply services, and rendered most valuable assistance in accomplishing the retreat of the German troops.

Every one is aware of the tremendous issues which depend upon the result of the present operations on the Western Front. Their importance cannot be exaggerated. Those of us "behind the lines," however, watching the progress of events from overseas, and regarding with loving admiration the gallant deeds of our men, know that they are making history. *We realise to the full what they are giving and doing for us.*

What can *we* do for *them*? How can we cheer and encourage and stimulate the brave fellows who are fighting over the seas? Most of us have undertaken some form of war work, a task performed universally with patriotic devotion. But no matter what branch of war work we are carrying out, there is a little "something" that each Member may perform to encourage and help the brave men who are carrying the day with such glorious success.

It is in the power of every Member of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League to keep the men at the Front well supplied with Comfort Parcels through our Soldiers' and Sailors' Hamper Fund. Of course a large proportion of our Members already maintain a regular supply of gifts for the Front, thereby providing husbands, brothers, fathers and sons, with the practical evidence that they

(Continued on p. 81.)

If a famous K.C. advised You

as to the very best form of investment would You not take his advice?

Read how Sir Edward Clarke, the eminent K.C., made HIS best investments. It is an extract from "The Story of my Life," published in the "Evening News." He says: "Each Christmas found me with more provision for my dear ones, partly by invested savings and partly by the very best investment of all, the increase of my life insurance."

The opinion of the famous K.C. is fully endorsed by hundreds of other successful men. Their wise and accumulating investments in endowment assurance gave them a sense of security. Such a safe method of saving insured a freedom from worry and money troubles that enabled them the better to devote their untrammelled energies to building up successful careers.

Ordinary investments may or may not prove beneficial. In either case there is an ever-present feeling of anxiety as to their safety, and where worry exists, mental and physical capacity suffers. With endowment assurance there is no risk of any kind. It is an investment that increases each year in value—one that *cannot* depreciate. Moreover, it affords provision for wife, family or dependents in case of death, and in addition is a security unhesitatingly accepted by bankers or business men.

Write for full particulars of Endowment Assurance, Annuities and New Life Rates.

EAGLE STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY LTD

1807

LIFE DEPT., 32, Moorgate Street, London, E.C. 2.

HEAD OFFICE:

BRITISH DOMINIONS HOUSE, Royal Exchange Avenue, E.C. 3.

Branches and Agents throughout the United Kingdom.

ASSETS EXCEED £13,000,000.

(*Concluded from p. 79.*)

Our Hamper Fund.

are ever in the thoughts of those at home. We ask our Members who do not yet subscribe to help to maintain the work of the Fund, and to meet the increasing demands made upon it, by sending weekly, fortnightly, monthly donations—or as frequently as they find themselves able to help a warrior on land or sea. Seven shillings and sixpence is not a large sum, but it provides a tremendous amount of comfort, practical and sentimental, to the Tommy in the trenches and the sailor on the sea. It purchases and *delivers* a Hamper full of good things.

By the time these lines are read in many distant parts of the world, preparations for the Christmas season will be under consideration. The first thought on the part of every one who has a relative or friend in the fighting forces will be, "What sort of a Christmas gift can I send him?" The time before us, however, is limited, and whatever one decides to do in this matter must be arranged now. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund of the Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League possesses the machinery to forward gifts promptly and to assure that measure of satisfaction to the recipient which is hoped for by the sender. There are many little comforts in need of which Tommy and Jack invariably stand. Musical instruments, such as gramophones or mouth organs; luxury eatables, like plum puddings and peppermints; footballs and other sports requisites; an extra pair of socks, etc., etc. All these items bring with them practical utility, and (what is of even greater moment) that sentimental touch which is so profoundly encouraging, indicating as it does, that the recipient is in the thoughts of his loved ones.

And when our own friends and relatives have been remembered there are others who must not be forgotten hundreds of thousands whose relatives cannot afford to send anything to them.

We make a special appeal on their behalf that Christmas, 1918, may be made the brighter by our Members' gifts. We trust this fact will be borne in mind, and that the splendid record already established by our Fund will be fully maintained.

Individual donations (or proceeds of collection) can be forwarded to The Chairman, Soldiers' and Sailors' Fund, Over-Seas Club and Patriotic League, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2, England, marking the envelope "Hampers" or "Christmas Hampers." Directions as to the distribution of the gift should be enclosed, and at the same time, particulars as to the items which you wish to include, which will be strictly adhered to, providing the goods are obtainable. Our Sub-Committee will then see that the delivery is made with the minimum of delay.

E. D. W. C.

Who can say No when Tommy asks for Food?

He has done the fighting,
He has risked the dying,
And now he will starve
Unless we keep him alive.

It is not a case of extra comforts, but of sheer necessaries, which he can only get if we who are safe—thanks to his courage—deny ourselves on his behalf.

He gives twice who gives quickly and the need is urgent, so please send a donation at once to the Founder,

The Rev. Hugh B. Chapman,
7, Savoy Hill, London, W.C. 2.

THE ROYAL SAVOY ASSOCIATION FOR THE RELIEF OF BRITISH PRISONERS OF WAR.

President: THE COUNTESS OF PLYMOUTH.
Vice-President: LADY PHYLLIS WINDSOR CLIVE.
Chairman: Mr. D. N. SHAW.

Registered under the War Charities Act.
Authorised by the Central Prisoners of War Committee.

OVERSEAS

The Open-Air Life

The Open-Air Life.

ONE of the most difficult problems which have to be faced by those interested in the re-education of disabled soldiers and sailors is how to enable country-bred men to pursue under new conditions the life of the open-air to which they have been accustomed. It would be tolerably easy to instal in institutions the lame, the halt and the blind, and to make them comfortable in these places so far as food and raiment are concerned. That would be merely a question of money and of a little organisation. But institutional life at its best is a poor substitute for a normal independent career. To place on the land a man who has lost a leg or an arm is a difficult proposition enough, but the soldier or sailor blinded in the War seems to present an absolutely hopeless case. How is it possible to train and equip such a man to win his livelihood from the soil. This seemingly insoluble problem has been solved and is being solved every day at St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. Among the many vocations which St. Dunstan's has opened up to blinded service men none is more promising or more interesting than that of Poultry Farming. There are at St. Dunstan's men used to the open and the uplands both here at home in the English moorland and meadow, and many from the far-flung outposts of Empire—Canadians, Australians, and Africans. To these open-air men the prospect of being able to resume life under the old conditions of fresh air and healthy exercise is assured. Their training as poultry farmers is extremely thorough. The senses of touch and smell are trained so that they replace to a wonderful extent the sense of sight which has departed. By the educated touch the St. Dunstan's poultry farmer identifies breeds, appraises the value of birds and of eggs, trusses fowls for the table, and builds coops and fowl runs. By the sense of smell he judges the quality and composition of foods. He is trained in theory and in practice by poultry experts of acknowledged ability, and when his course is completed and he has passed the tests prescribed by the authorities of St. Dunstan's, the blinded poultry farmer is fit to take up the business on his own account with every assurance of success. The poultry farm at St. Dunstan's is one of the most remarkable features of that very remarkable institution. Like all the other departments of the hostel it is full of the spirit of cheerfulness, contentment and hope. From it men go out into the world, some of them to the most distant parts of the Empire, and very few of them indeed fail to make good. Wherever they go they are helped and encouraged by the central institution at London, where day after day, from morning to night, Sir Arthur Pearson is busy at his great work of rehabilitating men who during the War have suffered what may be called the supreme deprivation.

We Mail Cloth in The Piece to Overseas Men

You'll get better cloth—Huddersfield's Solid Worsteds are famous for elastic silky texture, leather-like resistance to wear, and rich, fadeless dyes. Huddersfield is British Dyes Headquarters—the big new British industry. Direct buying reduces your tailoring bill one-third.

HUDDERSFIELD SOLID WORSTED SUIT LENGTHS - per yard, post free, 17/-

3½ yards is usually required for a suit.

120 Cloth Patterns Sent Post Free

With art-printed Styles Book, Tape Measure, Copyright Self-measuring Chart, Legal Guarantee of Satisfaction, or Prompt Cash Refund. Our average for alterations during last 10 years is not 2 per cent.

Write to-day and patterns will come out to you next mail.

GROVES & LINDLEY, Export Tailors, 102, Lion Buildings, Huddersfield, England.

ALL the HOME NEWS

IN THE

"OVER-SEAS DAILY MAIL"

The following letter shows how the paper is welcomed by our kinsmen overseas:—

"Sir,—I was reading in your ever-welcome paper that a reader in Philadelphia, U.S.A., said that he had received it every week since war began, with the exception of twice, so I thought I would write and tell you that I have been more fortunate than him, having only missed one copy all the time this dreadful war has been going on.

I must say that I look forward to the *Over-Seas Daily Mail* so much, being an Old Country Girl; it just seems like a message from home to me.

Wishing that your paper will have the best of success, and hoping you will be pleased to have the above information from so far away in the West.

Nelson, British Columbia. (Miss) ETHEL S. V. BLACKIE."

For 5/- "The Over-Seas Daily Mail," including Trade Supplements, will be posted to any address in the world—outside enemy countries—or to men serving abroad for a whole year.

Address—Chief Clerk, "Daily Mail Over-Seas Edition," Carmelite House, London, E.C. 4.

Royal Air Force Families' Relief Fund.

THIS Fund was established very soon after the commencement of the War for the purpose of assisting financially the Widows and other Dependents (who may be in necessitous circumstances) of the N.C.O.'s and men of the Royal Air Force who might lose their lives on Active Service. At first the casualties were few, but now, owing to the enormous increase of the Force and the constant combats in the air, the casualties are very numerous and the calls on the Fund are, in consequence, very heavy. The money in hand is getting very low; we therefore make this

Appeal To Our Countrymen Overseas

for help, and we feel sure, knowing the keen interest which they take in Aviation, that our appeal will not be in vain.

The Fund is Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916.

Donations may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer of the Fund—Major-General H. T. ARBUTHNOT, C.B., late R.A., 46, Dover Street, LONDON, W. 1; or to the Over-Seas Club, General Buildings, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.

Cheques to be crossed "A/c of R.A.F. Families' Relief Fund."

Rexine

—the perfect leather substitute.

If you use leather for upholstering furniture or motor cars, etc., for bookbinding, for slipper-making, for bags and fancy goods, you should write for samples of Rexine.

It supersedes leather because it is better in every way, yet costs only one-quarter the price.

Rexine has the identical appearance of leather, both in grains and colourings, but it does not crack or peel and is stain and grease proof.

If you have not seen Rexine
write for samples—

REXINE, LTD., HYDE, nr. Manchester.

LONDON: 42, Newgate Street, E.C.

R.F.C. Hospitals. **R.F.C. Hospitals.**

(FOR OFFICERS)

37, Bryanston Square, & 82, Eaton Square, LONDON.

THE COMMITTEE wishes to express its gratitude to Members of the Over-Seas Club, and of the Patriotic League of Britons Overseas, for their wonderful generosity, which has not only made possible the large extensions to these hospitals during the past year, but has removed any financial anxiety as to their future.

Another link has been formed between your Members and the R.F.C. by the establishment of a large auxiliary hospital at Shirley Park, Croydon, called the OVER-SEAS CLUB BRANCH. Here, amid beautiful and healthy surroundings, 100 officers can be cared for during convalescence.

Considerable sums will be needed for the upkeep of this branch, and the Committee looks with confidence to the Britons overseas—so many of whom hold commissions in the R.F.C.—to continue their kind help.

WALTER S. FIELD,

Hon. Treasurer, 37, Bryanston Square, S.W.

R.F.C. R.F.C.

AID PRISONERS' COMMITTEE FUND

President & Hon. Treasurer - LADY HENDERSON.
Secretary - - - - MISS DUDLEY.
Hon. Secretary for Prisoners - MRS. PRYOR.

SINCE the commencement of the War Lady Henderson has looked after all R.F.C. men serving abroad—providing them with comforts. THE PRISONERS have also been her first thought, and funds are urgently needed to carry on the work.

Will You Help?

Air Battles are fought daily on the Fronts in France, Salonica, Egypt, and Mesopotamia, and R.F.C. prisoners in the enemy's hands vitally need food and comforts.

Please send Cheques and Postal Orders to:—
LADY HENDERSON,
Royal Flying Corps Aid Committee and Prisoners' Fund.
SURREY HOUSE, MARBLE ARCH, LONDON, W. 1.

THE MERCHANT SERVICE

Gets but little of the bounteous offerings sent home by Patriotic Britons Overseas for War Charities.

The "jugular vein of the Nation" and the "weaver of the web of Empire" badly wants help of this kind.

An urgent appeal is, therefore, made for contributions to either or both of the following Funds :—

THE IMPERIAL MERCHANT SERVICE GUILD WAR FUND.

Sends money and substantial parcels at regular intervals to interned starving Merchant Captains and Officers, and helps their wives and families at home with money where needed. Expenditure in this way over **£20,000.**

The Fryatt Memorial Fund.

Patrons :—Lord Beresford, Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, Admiral Sir David Beatty and others.

To alleviate suffering and distress amongst Merchant Captains and Officers or their dependents and to maintain and educate their children. It is a Fund akin to the "Officers' Families' Fund" which does such grand work for the Officers of the Navy and Army, but does not cover the Merchant Service.

Contributions will be most gratefully received by :—

HON. LIEUT. T. W. MOORE, M.B.E., R.N.R.,
Imperial Merchant Service Guild,
The Arcade, LIVERPOOL.

ANGLO-SOUTH-AMERICAN CENTRAL DEPOT & CLUB.

(Including Central America and Mexico),
No. 1, Queen's Gate, LONDON, S.W. 7.

Affiliated to Queen Mary's Needlework Guild;
Approved by the War Office;
Registered under War Charities Act, 1916.

THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT keeps in constant touch by correspondence with our soldiers at the front.
THE PACKING ROOMS dispatch parcels of warm underclothing, periodicals, cigarettes and other comforts, to men on active service.
THE RED CROSS DEPARTMENTS supply hospitals with large quantities of garments for soldiers.
THE BANDAGE COMMITTEE has received and distributed approximately "one million bandages" (these have been made by British ladies in various parts of South America).
THE LADIES OF THE HOSPITAL DEPARTMENT visit the wounded and take them reading matter, etc.
THE CLUB ROOMS offer a hearty welcome to all Soldiers from South America.

Britons Overseas are earnestly invited to help strengthen this *Link between the Motherland and her Sons from Latin America.*

Remittances to **A. E. STEEL, Esq.,** *Hon. Treasurer.*

Queen Alexandra's Field Force Fund

(Registered under the War Charities Act, 1916)

Asks **you,** in the interests of our fighting men at the Front, to send all you can spare—and a little more—to enable the Fund to despatch those "Woollies" and other items of welfare which will be so sorely needed by our gallant men in this —the — **fifth** Winter Campaign.

Please Address Your Donations To The Hon. Treasurer:

24a, Hill Street, Knightsbridge, LONDON, S.W. 7.

BRITISH

County Homestead Association

4, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

(Registered under War Charities Act, 1916.)

Presidents :

HON. MRS. OLIPHANT MURRAY. (*Founder.*) HON. LADY FELLOWES.

Vice-Presidents :

Viscount French,. G.C.V.O., &c.
Viscount Jellicoe, G.C.B., &c.
Admiral Lord Beresford, G.C.B.
Admiral Hon. Sir E. Fremantle.
Maj.-Gen. Sir Desmond O'Callaghan.
Lord Forester.
Lord Bishop of London.
Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, J.P.
J. Havelock Wilson, Esq.
D. Fell, Esq. (ex.-M.P., N.S.W.). (*Co. Hon. Organiser.*)

The B.C.H.A. is extending the establishment of Central Training Homes in the various Counties, where Ex-Officers and Men of all Services are instructed in Agriculture and Horticulture, prior to settling down in Small Holdings of their own. A property is being purchased in Hampshire with funds received from British residents in China, which will be devoted entirely to the training of ex-officers.

Britishers in other parts of the Empire might emulate this patriotic spirit, and so show their gratitude in a tangible way to those of our splendid men who have been broken in health in helping to save the Empire and its peoples from the cruel fate of Belgium and Serbia.

The Need is Urgent. Men are being discharged daily, to whom an open-air life is essential.

"BIS DAT QUI CITO DAT."

Send your Cheque to-day to the Hon. Treasurer at above address, or to Lloyds Bank, Ltd., 16, St. James' Street, S.W. 1.

A Bright Home and a Bit o' Land.

OVERSEAS

Adrift!

A Child's Agony and Tears

NY one who, seeing a lost or crippled child lying helpless by the roadside, should ignore his cry for help, would be justly branded, if not as a criminal, at least as a heartless man and a brute.

At the present time there are in Great Britain many hundreds of boys and girls who, through no fault of their own, have been placed in circumstances equally distressing ; but because their pathetic little forms are not present to our view and their cry not ringing in our ears—or perhaps because we know too little of their needs—we do nothing to assuage their agony and tears. Ought we not to search out such cases, or at least be grateful to those who bring them to our knowledge ?

The other day, at that most beautiful of British Orphanages—the National Children's Home, formerly known as Dr. Stephenson's Homes—applications for admission were received on behalf of forty-five children. Nine of them were fatherless, nine were motherless, while four were both. Of the fathers, six had been killed in action, fighting for us on whose protection and help their little ones now depend. Twenty of the children were in grave moral and physical peril.

It was a painful and perplexing responsibility for the Committee to determine what should be done with them. Should they be received into one of the Branches, or must they be turned adrift again and left to fight the grim battle of life for themselves ? There was no lack of good-will on the part of the Committee : it was wholly a question of means.

Think of these youngsters, their timid hearts a-beating, advancing to the Chairman's table, all unconscious how their whole destiny, perhaps, swayed in the balance ! Each was a sentient being, like you and me, with infinite capacities for happiness and for suffering. Many had already gone through agonies of sorrow, of pain, of wretchedness. Yet they had done nothing to deserve so cruel a fate, and had as much right as you or I to that birthright of every Briton—a fair chance.

Since its foundation, fifty years ago, the National Children's Home has saved 12,000 such children, and in every corner of the Empire there are useful citizens who rise up and call it blessed. But the fate of the waiting children hangs upon you ; for the capacity of the Home to receive them, and the scores of others who apply for admission, is limited by the public's generosity.

Can you refuse a gift ? Please address : The Principal, The National Children's Home, 104—122, City Road, London, E.C. 1, England.

N.B.—It is important that you should mention "Overseas."

OVERSEAS

The Children of Our Brave Defenders

The Children of Our Brave Defenders.

DR. BARNARDO'S Homes are looking after hundreds of children of our brave soldiers and sailors who have lost their wives. The Homes are feeding and clothing and training these children, and caring for them until their fathers' return, if they do return. If not the Homes will stand *in loco parentis*.

Here is a case of a soldier's bairns. Private Tom Brown obtained leave from the Front when his wife died, leaving six motherless children, quite little ones. Two were twins only five days old. The father was distracted ; what was he to do ? Someone told him of Dr. Barnardo's Homes. He called at their Branch in Sheffield, and the Homes took the children in immediately and are minding them until Tom Brown's return from the War. Three of them are at "Babies' Castle." Two are at the "Boys' Garden City." One of the twins died before it could be brought to London.

Will our generous "Overseas" readers help the Homes to care for Tommy's Bairns ? The War Office grant is of course received, but it is not sufficient to support them.

"Oh, it's Tommy in the trenches ! It's Tommy by the gun !
But it's Tommy's bairns are crying while the work is being done ! "

Here is a case of a sailor's children. A sailor died after twenty-three years' service in the Navy. He had rejoined on outbreak of war. His wife and eldest boy strove with all their energy to keep the little family he left behind. The mother contracted pneumonia, facing in that last illness not only death, but the knowledge of the almost certain ruin, moral and physical, of the children whom she loved. "It isn't fitting that his children should go under," she pleaded to the clergyman whom she had called to her aid. It *isn't* fitting. And the clergyman showed to her the best and surest way he knew of saving them—the Barnardo Homes. Two of her boys are now under care and training, and, in all probability, one may, later on, go to the Watts Naval Training School, to learn to be, even as his father was, "a true-blue sailor man."

Three of Tommy's Bairns at Babies' Castle.

Cheques and orders payable "Dr. Barnardo's Homes Food Bill Fund," and crossed (notes should be registered), may be sent to the Honorary Director, William Baker, Esq., M.A., LL.B., 18—26, Stepney Causeway, London, E. 1.

— THE —

Church Lads' Brigade

Founded 1891. **Incorporated 1893.**

King's Royal Rifle Corps Cadets

Patron—H.M. THE KING.

President—Field-Marshal H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, K.G., K.T., etc.

Governor and Commandant—Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, P.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

HALF-A-MILLION British Lads have had the advantage of C.L.B. Religious Instruction and Training in true Christian manliness.

The Church Lads' Brigade was the first boys' organisation to become recognised under the Cadet Training System. At least 200,000 past and present members are serving with the Colours.

THE CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE AND THE WAR.

At the outbreak of hostilities Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell raised a Service Battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps from the ranks of the Church Lads' Brigade, and undertook the work of Recruiting, Equipping, and Training the Battalion.

During the War at least 340 Military Distinctions are known to have been won by C.L.B. Members, including: V.C.'s, G.C.B., D.S.O.'s, Military Crosses, D.C.M.'s, Military Medals, C.M.G.'s, Imperial Service Medal, Croix de Guerre, Mentioned in Despatches, Serbian Cross with Swords, Italian Bronze Medal, Cross of St. George (Russian).

Will you help the Church Lads' Brigade to continue its work for the Defence of the Empire, and the Religious, Moral, and Physical welfare of our "men of a few years hence"?

Cheques, Money Orders, and Postal Orders to be crossed "London Joint Stock Bank, Pall Mall," and made payable to the Secretary, Church Lads' Brigade, Aldwych House, Catherine Street, Aldwych, London, W.C. 2.

MESOPOTAMIA COMFORTS FUND

FOR BRITISH TROOPS.

URGENTLY requires donations in order to contribute to the welfare and happiness of the Troops fighting under such trying climatic conditions.

PLEASE HELP US!

Cheques, etc., should be made payable to the Mesopotamia Comforts Fund, crossed Coutts & Co., and sent to the Hon. Secretaries, 15, Aldford Street, Mayfair, London, W. 1.

THE NAVY LEAGUE

FOUNDED JANUARY, 1895.

13, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1.

The Navy League appeals for practical support to enable it to pursue the active propagandist and educational work upon which it is now engaged in relation to the war, and to generally promote the objects for which it exists, namely, to bring home to the people of the Empire the vital importance of retaining the supreme command of the sea, coupled with supremacy in the air.

Every patriot in the Empire should prove his or her confidence in our Sea Power by becoming a member of the League.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:—	£	s.	d.	
Life Vice-President	25	0	0	
Life Fellow	10	0	0	
Vice-Presidents (annually)	5	0	0	
Fellow	1	1	0	
Member with *The Navy*, post free ...		5	0	
Member with *The Quarterly*, post free ...		1	0	and upwards.

"The Fleet of England is Her All in All."

GORDON HIGHLANDERS

Prisoners of War Fund.

MANY men of this Regiment are Prisoners of War in Germany.

THEY ENTIRELY DEPEND ON THE ABOVE FUND FOR **FOOD.**

£2 8s. 0d. will provide each man with Six Parcels of Provisions per Month.

Please send Donations to:—

COL. SCOTT, C.B.,
27, Old Bond St., London, W. 1.

THE BLUE CROSS FUND

(Registered under the War Charities Act)

To Alleviate the Sufferings of Horses and other Animals in War Time.

President: LADY SMITH-DORRIEN, D.B.E. Chairman: SIR ERNEST FLOWER.

FROM A BRITISH OFFICER IN FRANCE:—"My horses have been having a pretty rough time lately. Your waterproof horse-rugs are invaluable. Could you send me two more?"

Similar letters with demands for help are received by every post.

FUNDS NEEDED TO "CARRY ON."

All War Dogs of the French Army, sick, wounded and fatigued, under the care of BLUE CROSS.

Hon. Treasurer: GENERAL SIR LESLIE RUNDLE, G.C.B. Bankers: London, County, Westminster & Parrs, Sloane Square. ARTHUR J. COKE, Secretary, 58, Victoria St., London, S.W. 1.

THE SUBMARINE MENACE.

German Submarines are still sinking our ships. Destitute crews from these ships are still being landed at various ports, where they are cared for by the

Shipwrecked Mariners' Society,

which has an Honorary Agent in every town on the coasts of the British Isles. The war-relief expenditure up to June 30th, 1918, was **£112,772,** comprising help afforded to **46,672 Sailors and Fishermen, 2,124 Widows, 4,111 Orphans, and 953 Aged Parents.**

Patron: H.M. THE KING.

President: The Right Hon. LORD LEITH OF FYVIE. Chairman: Admiral W. F. S. MANN.
Bankers: Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., Cockspur Street, S.W. 1.

MONEY IS NOW URGENTLY NECESSARY to enable the Committee to "carry on" in an efficient manner. Will you send your gift to-day?

Gerald E. Maude, Esq., Secretary, Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, 26, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall East, London, S.W. 1.

Y.M.C.A. RECREATION HUTS at the BASE CAMPS in FRANCE.

Auxiliary Committee:

President: HER HIGHNESS PRINCESS HELENA VICTORIA.

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Hon. Treasurer: MR. BARNARD COWTAN.

Joint Hon. Secretaries: { THE COUNTESS OF BESSBOROUGH, C.B.E.
{ MRS. IAN MALCOLM, M.B.E.

The Y.M.C.A. Ladies' Auxiliary Committee, of which Her Highness Princess Helena Victoria is President, and the Countess of Bessborough and Mrs. Ian Malcolm, Joint Hon. Secretaries, are doing a most valuable work amongst the soldiers at the Base Camps in France. Since the commencement of the War, they have sent out over 900 ladies, who have given their services voluntarily, to assist in the Huts by serving refreshments, etc., organising games among the men, helping with their letters, giving them sympathy and encouragement, and in many other ways minister to the comforts of the soldiers. The work the Y.M.C.A. ladies are doing also in the Hostels for the relatives of the wounded is of the greatest value, and calls for sympathy and support.

A Special Appeal is made for all kinds of Indoor Games, such as Draughts, Dominoes, Puzzles, etc., also Gramophones and Records, for our Troops in Italy.

VOLUNTARY LADY WORKERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED.

Donations and gifts in kind, such as games (indoor and outdoor), gramophones, records, and musical instruments, should be addressed to Her Highness Princess Helena Victoria, Y.M.C.A., 74, South Audley Street, London, W. 1, and marked "Base Camps Fund."

All contributions will be gratefully received by the Aux. Committee.

"Arethusa" War Emergency Fund.

Patrons—
THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN.

Vice-President—
ADMIRAL VISCOUNT JELLICOE.

Chairman and Treasurer—
C. E. MALDEN, Esq., M.A.

Joint Secretaries—
H. BRISTOW WALLEN and HENRY G. COPELAND.

TO BRITISHERS EVERYWHERE.

IT is of the utmost importance that the splendid work of the "Arethusa" Training Ship should be well maintained. Its contribution of 2,600 boys to the Royal Navy, 6,500 boys to the Mercantile Marine, and a further 2,000 to the British Army's varied services should make an appeal hard to resist. Several were in the recent Zeebrugge affair. If the Society to which this vessel belongs and its eight country and London Homes is to be maintained in 1918 without a shortage of funds it can only be accomplished by an increase of Subscriptions and Donations and by special gifts to the War Emergency Fund to meet the increased cost of food and materials. The committee plead earnestly for a generous response. All gifts will be promptly and gratefully acknowledged if sent to 164, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2. HENRY G. COPELAND, *Secretary.*

WEST AFRICA

The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast and Nigeria.

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THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

PATRONS - THEIR MAJESTIES THE KING AND QUEEN AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA.
PRESIDENT . . . . . SIR ARTHUR PEARSON, BART.

224-6-8, GREAT PORTLAND ST., LONDON, ENG.

General Secretary: Henry Stainsby.

How much can you spare from your comforts for such a worthy cause?

Before answering the question, think a minute and say

How much you would take for your own eyes.

THEN SEND YOUR DONATION TO
The Secretary, The National Institute for the Blind.

The National Institute for the Blind asks all who read this to remember how much you have to be thankful for, for the precious gift of sight.

One of the most important of the numerous activities being carried on by the Institute is the production of books in embossed type. In spite of the fact that the War has greatly increased the difficulties of production, there has been no advance made to the blind man for his literature. No Braille volume is sold for more than half a crown, which means a heavy loss on each book produced, while vast numbers of books are distributed free. The Institute gives advice and assistance to all classes of the blind, and its work is especially valuable to those who have recently lost their sight.

Its work could be expanded
: if it had more funds. :

No sum too small to be welcome,
None too large to be useful.

Blind Soldiers rowing.

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The great representative of France against Apollinaris and other German Waters.

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